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Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-099 CONTENTS *23 May 1995*

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Agreement Reached To Postpone Summit on Jerusalem *[Cairo TV]* 1
Arab League Chief Opens Seminar on UAE Islands *[MENA]* 1

Islamic Affairs

OIC Foreign Ministerial Summit Held in Morocco 1
Iran's Velayati, Moroccan Minister Speak *[Tehran Radio]* 1
Velayati, Bosnian Minister Meet *[IRNA]* 2
Velayati Confers With OIC Head Algabid *[IRNA]* 2
Velayati Attacks U.S. Mideast Policy *[IRNA]* 2
Morocco's King Receives Foreign Ministers *[Rabat Radio]* 3
Pakistan's Ali Blasts India's 'Barbarity' *[MAP]* 3
King Hassan, Ali Discuss Charar Sharif, Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* 4
Pakistan Urges Measures Against Serbs *[MAP]* 4
Emergency UNGA Session on Bosnia Urged *[Rabat TV]* 5
Turkish, Malaysian Ministers Depart *[Rabat Radio]* 5

Palestinian Affairs

PA Welcomes Israeli Decision on Expropriations *[Jericho VOP]* 5
Al-Husayni: Israeli Decision Step in Right Direction *[Jericho VOP]* 6
'Urayqat Urges Israel To Cancel Expropriation Decision *[Jerusalem International]* 6
PA Member Reacts to Suspension of Land Seizure *[Cairo International]* 7
Qaddumi Accuses Rabin of 'Deception, Procrastination' *[WAKH]* 8
Official Denies 'Arafat To Meet Habash, Hawatimah *[AL-RA'Y 22 May]* 8
'Abd-Rabbuh on Not Being Able To Enter Jerusalem *[Jericho VOP]* 8

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat, Peres Begin Talks in Gaza City *[Jericho VOP]* 9
Say 'Crisis' is Over *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 9
Hold News Conference *[Jericho VOP]* 9
'Arafat Adviser Reviews Talks *[Jericho VOP]* 10
Gulf States Reject Pressure To Establish Mideast Bank *[AL-SHA'B 19 May]* 11

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

President Invites Political Parties for More Talks *[Algiers Radio]* 12
FIS Spokesman on U.S., French Stands; Violence *[AL-'ARABI 15 May]* 12
EL-TABYIN Magazine Editor Killed Outside House *[Algiers Radio]* 14
Security Services Eliminate 30 'Terrorists' *[Algiers Radio]* 14

Egypt

Musa Reacts to Israeli Suspension of Expropriation 14
Says Delay of Arab Summit Possible *[MENA]* 14
Warns That 'Difficulties' Remain *[MENA]* 14

Turkmen Government Delegation Pays Official Visit 15
Defense Minister Meets Counterpart *[MENA]* 15
Mubarak Meets President Niyazov *[MENA]* 15
Joint Communique Issued *[MENA]* 16
Ministers Comment on Accords *[MENA]* 16
Peaceful Program Urged After New York NPT 'Success' *[AL-SHA'B 16 May]* 16

Morocco

Foreign Ministry: 'Disappointment' at U.S. Veto *[Rabat Radio]* 17
King Hassan Speaks on Agriculture 'Disaster' *[Rabat TV]* 17

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Finance Committee Rejects Draft Budget *[KUNA]* 20
Cabinet To Examine Defense Ministry 'Excesses' *[Kuwait Radio]* 20
Joint Assembly, Ministerial Team To Solve 'Dispute' *[KUNA]* 20

Saudi Arabia

Daily Sees U.S. Land Veto as 'Electioneering' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 19 May]* 21
Opposition Leader al-Mas'ari Discusses Activities *[London THE INDEPENDENT 23 May]* ... 21
Tehran: Forces Commander Criticizes U.S. Policy *[IRNA]* 22

Yemen

President Salih Gives Unity Anniversary Speech *[Sanaa Radio]* 23

IRAQ

Government Decrees Announce Cabinet Changes 26
Interior Minister Relieved of Post *[Baghdad Radio]* 26
New Interior Minister Appointed *[Baghdad Radio]* 26
Presidential Adviser Named *[Baghdad Radio]* 26
Saddam Chairs Cabinet Session, Discusses Economy *[INA]* 26
National Assembly Ratifies Oil Deal With Russia *[INA]* 27
Minister Outlines Production Plans *[INA]* 27
U.S. 'Double Standards,' Anti-Arab Stands Assailed *[INA]* 27
Saudi Bid To 'Bribe' Chirac Government Condemned *[INA]* 27
Industry Minister Receives Polish Deputy Minister *[AL-THAWRAH 26 Apr]* 28
Paper Reports Looting, Provocation by Talabani Men *[AL-'IRAQ 25 Apr]* 28

ISRAEL

Peres Announces Suspension of Land Expropriations *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Opposition Drops No-Confidence Motion *[AFP]* 29
Arab Party Questions Wording of Decision *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Rabin Explains Decision at News Conference *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 30

Ministers, Officials React to Suspension Decision 31
Olmert Assails 'Government of Wimps' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Netanyahu Expresses 'Contempt' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Likud MK 'Sharply Criticizes' Netanyahu *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Arab MK Calls Move 'Trickery' *[MENA]* 31
Minister Sees 'Death Blow' to Government *[DAVAR 23 May]* 32
Minister Mourns Likud 'Blackmail' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Commentary Calls Decision Victory for Arabs *[MA'ARIV 23 May]* 33
MK Criticizes Rabin, Says Firm Arab Stand Needed *[Jericho VOP]* 33
Beilin Calls al-Husayni Intifadah Warning 'Unbecoming' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
U.S. Veto Called More Damaging Than Expropriations *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Foreign Ministry Denies Reports *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
U.S. Pressuring Country To Sign New Nuclear Treaty *[HA'ARETZ 21 May]* 35
Minister: Country Cannot Comply *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Fourteen Powers To Be Transferred by 1 Jul *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Daily Says Target Date 'Not Sacred' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 21 May]* 37
Foreign Minister Announces $125 Million Loan to PA *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
'Final Offer' Given to Syria; Netanyahu on al-Shar' *[HA'ARETZ 22 May]* 37
Soldier Throws Grenades in Yafo Church; No Injuries *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38

JORDAN

Al-Kabariti Welcomes Decision on Land Confiscation *[Amman Radio]* 39
Israel's Confiscation Decision Termed 'Insufficient' *[AL-DUSTUR 23 May]* 39
King Talks to Mubarak, 'Arafat on Arab Summit *[Amman TV]* 39
Pro-Treaty Deputies Join Oppositionists on Jerusalem *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 19 May]* 40
Al-Surur: Passing Laws Lifting Israel Boycott 'Difficult' *[AL-MAJD 22 May]* 41
Prime Minister Meets New Zealand Commerce Minister *[Amman Radio]* 41
Al-Kabariti Receives New Zealand Minister *[Amman Radio]* 41

SYRIA

Radio: U.S. 'Protection' Helps Israel Challenge World *[Damascus Radio]* 42
U.S. Support for Israeli Positions Criticized *[AL-THAWRAH 20 May]* 42
Al-Asad Receives Message From Iranian Counterpart *[Damascus Radio]* 43
Foreign Minister al-Shar' Receives PLO's Qaddumi *[Damascus Radio]* 43
Minister Receives UN Investigation Team on Golan *[Damascus Radio]* 43
Ministry Report Submitted to UN Committee *[Damascus Radio]* 44
Reportage on al-Shar' Visit to Spain 44

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Mojaddedi Views Rabbani's 'Legal' Status, Taleban *[Message of Freedom]* 45
Taleban, Hekmatyar Said Negotiating Alliance *[IRNA]* 45

Coverage of Recent Taleban, Government Clashes 45
Fighting Continues in Maydan Shahr *[Message of Freedom]* 45
Taleban Posts, Prisoners Captured *[Kabul Radio]* 45
Army Halts Offensive *[AFP]* 46
Army Has 'Edge Over Rivals' *[IRNA]* 46
Calm Restored After Taleban Defeat *[IRNA]* 46

India

Official, Press View of Congress-I Party Split 46
Spokesman Denies Split *[Delhi Radio]* 46
Daily Discusses Split *[BUSINESS STANDARD 22 May]* 47
Editorial Views 'Clear Division' *[INDIAN EXPRESS 20 May]* 48
Daily: Most Members 'Fence-Sitters' *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 20 May]* 49
Troops Out To Prevent Kashmir Protest March *[AFP]* 49
'Protesters' Reach Shrine *[Islamabad Radio]* 50

Iran

Rafsanjani Calls U.S. Sanctions 'Propaganda War' *[Tehran TV]* 50
Velayati Interviewed on Religion, Regional Issues *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 22 May]* 50
Velayati on Need To Improve Relations With Iraq *[Tehran TV]* 53
Radio Views Delegates' Visit to Iraq, Need For 'Unity' *[Tehran International]* 53
'Source': Nuclear Plans With China Near Collapse *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 21 May]* 54
*Roots of Economic Crisis, Plans To Counter *[KEYHAN 6, 8, 9 Apr]* 54
Growth of Telecommunication Networks *[TEHRAN TIMES 16 Mar]* 61

Pakistan

Former Prime Minister Charged With Abuse of Office *[Islamabad TV]* 65
Minister Views OIC Inaction, Indian 'Threat' *[Islamabad Radio]* 65
Australian Foreign Minister Pays Official Visit 66
Views Kashmir; Meets Leghari, Bhutto *[Islamabad TV]* 66
Comments on Visit, Relations *[Islamabad Radio]* 66
Daily Assails 'Offensive' Remark *[THE NATION 23 May]* 67
Defense Committee Considering PRC Ship Purchase *[THE NEWS 18 May]* 67
Chief Minister Views Kashmir, Karachi Violence *[Islamabad Radio]* 68
New Governor Appointed; Vows Peace in Karachi *[Islamabad Radio]* 68
Islamabad Updates Karachi Violence *[Islamabad Radio]* 69

Sri Lanka

President Vows 'Any Means' To Restore Peace *[AFP]* 69
Daily Notes Foreign Help in Fight Against Rebels *[VIRAKESARI 14 May]* 69
'Major Battle' With Rebels; Casualties Updated *[AFP]* 70
Australian Foreign Minister Pays Official Visit 70
Arrives; Schedule Detailed *[Colombo International]* 70
Offers To Mediate With Rebels *[Melbourne Radio]* 70

Inter-Arab Affairs

Agreement Reached To Postpone Summit on Jerusalem

NC2205161395 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1542 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Muhamad Husni Mubarak held intensive telephone contacts and consultations with Arab leaders today. He telephoned the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia; King Hassan II of Morocco; His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan; and His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan of the United Arab Emirates. The president also contacted Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

It was agreed to postpone the minisummit, for which contacts were taking place.

This was based on the decision adopted by the Israeli Government at an emergency meeting today to suspend and freeze the expropriation of Arab land in East Jerusalem.

Arab League Chief Opens Seminar on UAE Islands

NC2205113895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0943 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 22 May (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has affirmed once again the Arab League's full support for all the peaceful measures the United Arab Emirates [UAE] is using to retrieve its sovereignty over its three islands—Tunb al-Sughra, Tunb al-Kubra, and Abu Musa—since they are an indivisible part of the UAE.

'Abd-al-Majid said in the speech he delivered today during the opening session of the historic documents and studies seminar over the three Arab islands in the Arabian Gulf at the Arab League headquarters that the Arab League calls on Iran to cooperate with the UAE's positive stances to resolve conflicts through peaceful means based on international charters.

It also calls on Iran to accept the International Court of Justice resolving the conflict.

The Arab League secretary general said that the issue of the three Arab islands are at the forefront of the important current issues in the region, in view of their strategic importance. He said that these islands have been Arab from the earliest times and that its inhabitants are Arabs who speak Arabic and who have very close ties with the Arab homeland.

He noted that historic documents that cannot be doubted confirm that the UAE owns these islands, but Iran's expansionist ambitions and its desire to control the entrance to the Gulf in addition to its military and other political objectives led it to occupy them on 30 November 1971. He praised the UAE stance under the leadership of Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, which adhered from the start of the crisis to the inalienable Arab rights to these islands.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the UAE has exerted all possible efforts at all levels to solve the problem peacefully and through negotiations out of concern for good neighborliness. He added that the Arab countries have backed this stance, stressed their support for the UAE's right to restore its sovereignty over the islands, and demanded Iran respect the charters and agreements signed with the UAE. He expressed regret about Iran's lack of response to all the efforts made so far to resolve the crisis.

On his part, Ahmad al-Mahmud, UAE ambassador to Egypt and his country's permanent envoy to the Arab League, reviewed in his speech the historic right to the islands and developments since Iran occupied them. He said that the UAE's rejection of Iran's aggression against the islands and its demands for removing it stem from its firm belief in its right to and sovereignty over the three islands. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

OIC Foreign Ministerial Summit Held in Morocco

Iran's Velayati, Moroccan Minister Speak

LD1905133795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 19 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The foreign ministerial summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] has began work in Morocco.

In the conference, opened with a speech by the Moroccan prime minister, Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati expressed concern over the situation in Bosnia criticizing the delaying tactic of the international community toward the continuation of bloodshed in that region.

Referring to the directives of the heads of the Islamic states to provide the aid needed in Bosnia so that the Bosnians will carry on with their legitimate defense, the Iranian foreign minister stressed offering such support to Bosnia.

In another part of his speech, Dr. Velayati called on the Moroccan foreign minister, the rotational head of the OIC, to mention the dangers that would entail with the

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withdrawal of UN forces from the region in a letter to the UN secretary general and to stress the stance of the Islamic countries in this regard.

At the beginning of the session, the prime minister and foreign minister of Morocco, in a speech talked about the warring situation in Bosnia, expressing surprise over the international community's inability to solve the problem. Filali then called for lifting of the sanctions imposed on Bosnia and a boost in the Islamic countries' activity to help Bosnia as well as vindication of legitimate rights of the republic.

Velayati, Bosnian Minister Meet

LD1805164095 Tehran IRNA in English
1545 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 18, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and international relations minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Hassan Medatvic [name and title as received], Thursday [18 May] reviewed current developments in the Balkans and the present situation in Sarajevo. They also exchanged views on the agenda of the contact group of the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) in Rabat.

The Bosnian minister appreciated the humanitarian assistance of Iran to the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Iran's lobbying at international conferences for securing an early end to bloodshed in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He also deplored the indecision of the United Nations and its postponement of Security Council resolutions for halting Serb hostilities, and expressed hope that Muslim governments would play a more active role for restoring peace and security to Bosnia-Herzegovina by dispatching additional peacekeeping forces.

The two officials agreed that military sanctions against B.H. should be lifted so that Bosnians would be able to exercise their right for self-defense.

The OIC contact group on Bosnia is made up of Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Egypt, Malaysia, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Senegal.

Velayati Confers With OIC Head Algabid

LD1905151495 Tehran IRNA in English
1418 GMT 19 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 19, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati currently in Maghreb to take part at the meeting of foreign ministers of the contact group of Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), on Thursday [18 May] met with the OIC Secretary-General Hamid Algabid.

According to the Iranian Foreign Ministry's Department of Information and Media in the meeting between Velayati and Algabid, the two sides reviewed the latest situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and also discussed the programmes and activities of the OIC particularly those of the contact group concerning the Bosnian crisis.

Referring to critical situation in Bosnia, Algabid underlined the importance of the time for setting up the meeting of the foreign ministers of the contact group.

Algabid appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran's assistance and supports given to the legitimate rights of the Republic of Bosnia. He also expressed his support for the Iranian initiative in setting up the recent tripartite meeting in Tehran among Iran, Greece and Bosnia for finding out a solution to the Bosnian crisis.

Underlining the importance of the time for setting up the meeting of the foreign ministers of the contact group, Velayati described this opportunity as valuable for the Muslim countries for further organizing of their programmes in order to help bring about a just solution to the Bosnian crisis.

Velayati expressed that the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran was for settlement of peace in the Balkans. He also described the activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this regard and in the framework of the tripartite meeting among Iran, Greece and Bosnia.

The important problems and crises in the Muslim world such as the conflicts in Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Kashmir were among the issues discussed in the meeting between Velayati and Algabid.

Describing the activities of Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) for putting an end to the conflicts, Algabid called for the constructive opinion as well as the continuation of the cooperation by the Islamic Republic of Iran for finding a solution to the crises in the Muslim world.

Velayati Attacks U.S. Mideast Policy

LD2005125495 Tehran IRNA in English
1225 GMT 20 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Velayati Tehran, May 20, IRNA — Iran's foreign minister said in Rabat on Friday [19 May] that Washington was sacrificing the interests of the Muslim world and those for of Muslim countries in the Middle East for its internal rivalries.

Velayati, in Rabat, Maghreb to attend the ministerial session of the Contact Group of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) made the remark in a meeting with Prime Minister of Maghreb, Abdellatif Filali.

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Velayati added Washington's recent veto of a U.N. Security resolution condemning the expropriation of Arab lands and its support for the Zionist regime during the recently concldued npt review and extension conference in New York, betrayed the U.S.' intention to help Israel dominate Muslim countries.

Recalling the decisions made by members of the OIC Contact Group in their Thursday's session on Bosnia-Herzegovina, Velayati expressed hope that decisions would be materialized for the benefit of Bosnian Muslims.

Filali on his part called the Zionist regime's actions in confiscating the Palestinian lands as "dangerous and unacceptable" Muslims, Arabs and the world as a whole.

Israel claims to be an advocate of peace on the one hand and commits such acts that belie its claims on the other, Filali said, adding that the U.S. which claims to be impartial in the dispute has always taken the side of the Israeli regime.

Filali pointed out that exclusion of Israel from the nuclear non- proliferation treaty is not only unacceptable but is also the cause of tension in the region and the world.

He said his country, as the current chariman of the OIC will seriously follow up the issue.

Among other topics brought up and discussed by the two were promotion of Tehran-Rabat ties in political, economic and cultural fields.

Calling Terhan-Rabat ties an historical, Filali said that bilateral relations have been founded on a strong basis.

Briefing Velayati on economic ties and volume of trade exchanges between the two countries now standing at dlrs. 250 million, Filali underlined the necessity of further expanding Tehran-Rabat ties within the framework of south-south cooperation.

Velayati called for setting up of Iran-Maghreb joint economic commission and said it could provide a suitable ground for expansion of bilateral economic and trade ties.

The two sides agreed to convene joint economic commission by next August.

In another development here Friday, Velayati met with the industries minister of Maghreb who called for broadening of Tehran- Rabat ties especially in handicraft, and manufacture of auto spare parts.

Later on Friday, Maghreb's mines and energy minister met with Velayati and called on Iran to provide Rabat with her experiences in mines, metals and electrification of villages.

Velayati arrrived in Rabat Wednesday to attend the ministerial session of the OIC Contact Group.

Morocco's King Receives Foreign Ministers

LD1805175395 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Hassan II received Mr. Hasan Moratovic, Bosnian minister of cooperation with the United Nations, who conveyed to his majesty the king a verbal message from Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic.

His majesty also received afterward the Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali who delivered a message from the Pakistani president.

Afterward, his majesty the king received the Hungarian Foreign Minister Mr. Laszlo Kovacs. During the meeting the Hungarian minister conveyed to his majesty the king a private message from the Hungarian president.

These meetings were attended by Mr. Abdellatif Filali, prime minsiter and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

Pakistan's Ali Blasts India's 'Barbarity'

LD1905135195 Rabat MAP in English 1311 GMT 19 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Feb. 02 [date as received] (MAP) — Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali renewed lately here his country's support to holding a self-determination referendum in the Sahara under the aegis of the UNO.

Sardar Asif Ahmed Ali is in Morocco to attend a meeting of the contact group of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) on Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Pakistani minister surveyed at a press conference the latest developments in Kashmir and noted that the situation is deteriorating in the province due to 'the mobilization by India of 600,000 men to squash the resistance of the Kashmiri people'.

'Instead of settling the conflict by applying the UN Security Council resolutions, India has chosen to launch repression and genocide campaigns against the Kashmiri people', he said, adding that over 42,000 people were killed 'by the Indian occupation forces'.

Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali who denounced the various human rights violations perpetrated by India in Kashmir, including the burning and sacrilege of Muslim holy shrines, underlined that 'these acts of barbarity' are a 'blatant violation' of the UN charter.

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After recalling the threats of war made by India against his country, the Pakistani minister called on the international community to intervene and avoid the escalation of tension.

King Hassan, Ali Discuss Charar Sharif, Kashmir

BK2105084595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The current chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC], King Hassan II of Morocco, has expressed his deep anguish and indignation at the martyrdom of the holy shrine of Sheikh Nuruddin Wali and adjacent mosques by Indian troops at Charar Sharif town in occupied Kashmir. The Moroccan king expressed these sentiments to Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, who called on him in Rabat.

King Hassan II said along with the people of Pakistan and Kashmir, Muslims and other peace-loving people of the world have been outraged by the Charar Sharif incident. The OIC chairman said this was not the first occasion of the Indian authorities acting with such brutality toward the Muslims of occupied Kashmir. The king reiterated that Morocco stands fully committed to the cause of the Kashmiri people and supports their right to self-determination as provided for in the UN resolution.

Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali briefed King Hassan II on the Indian attempts to distort the facts regarding the Charar Sharif incident and the threats of war hurled at Pakistan by Indian cabinet ministers. He thanked the king on behalf of the government and the people of Pakistan for continued Moroccan support for the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions on Kashmir. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali also delivered a letter from President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan foreign minister represented Pakistan Thursday at the Rabat meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia. The foreign minister briefed the other delegations on the latest developments in occupied Kashmir. In the opening session of the Contact Group meeting, the OIC secretary general, Dr. Hamid Algabid, also referred to the situation in occupied Kashmir and condemned the brutal operation by the Indian troops in Charar Sharif. He said the operation in Charar Sharif has infuriated the Kashmiri people and sent a wave of anguish and indignation over the entire Muslim world. Algabid expressed his concern at the deteriorating situation in Indian-held Kashmir and observed that it jeopardized the peace and security of the region. He said it is imperative that India be persuaded to end its repression in Kashmir and respect the basic rights of the Kashmiri people, including their right to self- determination.

The Saudi and Turkish heads of their delegations attending the OIC Contact Group meeting assured the foreign minister of their full support for the cause of the Kashmiri people in accordance with Casablanca Declaration.

Pakistan Urges Measures Against Serbs

LD1905140295 Rabat MAP in English 1317 GMT 19 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, May 19 (MAP) — Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali called Wednesday [17 May] here on the international community to take concrete measures to compel the Serbs abide by the resolutions of the UN Security Council on Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali voiced at a press conference concern over the deterioration of the situation in Sarajevo and Bihac and deplored the lack of determination on the part of the NATO, the European Union and the United Nations to take concrete actions against the Serbian aggressors.

He also denounced the Serbian violation of the security zones declared by the Security Council and called on the UNO to launch air attacks against the Serbs and to seize the arms that were removed by the latter from Sarajevo and Bihac.

'If the UNO abstains from undertaking such actions, we will be compelled to believe that the organization is not impartial', he said, underlining the need to lift the embargo imposed on Bosnia to allow this Muslim country defend itself.

He added that if the French and the British blue helmets decide to withdraw from the UNPROFOR (UN force stationed in Bosnia), countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) are ready to replace them.

Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali is attending in Morocco a meeting of the OIC contact group on Bosnia-Herzegovina. The group, which was set up by the 7th Islamic summit held last December in Casablanca, gathers Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Pakistan, Iran, Senegal, Malaysia and Turkey as well as the secretary general of the OIC. Bosnia has an observer status. Indonesia, acting chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, and Bangladesh are attended the Rabat meeting as guests.

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Emergency UNGA Session on Bosnia Urged

LD1905222095 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 19 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic [Organization of the Islamic Conference] contact group in its final communique which was released today in Rabat after its meeting in Morocco, decided to make an urgent request for convening an emergency session of the UN General Assembly to debate the current situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The group issued a final communique defining the group's working plan after observing in their communique that despite the expiry of the cease-fire the Security Council has maintained its silence and the NATO organization has been unwilling to move, and the international contact group has been unable to continue the peace plan which it adopted. They denounced Serbian aggression and the extermination policy and ethnic cleansing. They also expressed their deep concern over the weakness of the mediation and [urged] the application of pressure on the Serbs to make them accept the peace plan. They recalled the declaration of the Seventh Islamic summit on Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Tayb el Fassi, the secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation says:

[Begin el Fassi recording] The contact group after being received by his majesty the king, who gave them the view of the Moroccan Kingdom on this problem, adopted a number of important practical resolutions. The first of these concerned the request to convene an emergency and extraordinary meeting of the UN General Assembly. The second resolution concerns a call for the western contact group, which consists of the United States, France, Germany, Russia, and Britain, to meet with the contact group of the Islamic states to discuss ways of carrying out the peace plan which, as everybody knows, has existed for some months, and which is supported by both the western and Islamic states, but which is still rejected by the Serbian side. The third and important resolution concerns the need to strengthen the UN mission on the spot. Everybody knows that some western states want to withdraw from the UN mission, whereas other states do not want to send troops to Bosnia. The contact group has called for the beefing up of the UN mission by sending in forces from the Islamic states. [end recording]

The members of the Contact Group on Bosnia issued other resolutions concerning the mobilization of aid for Bosnia-Herzegovina with the aim of enabling it to achieve legitimate self-defense and to continue to implement the agreement between Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina with good intentions, and [to implement] the constitution of the Federal Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The resolutions stressed the need for mutual and simultaneous recognition of all the newly created states of former Yugoslavia as a precondition for lifting the sanctions. The resolutions also stressed the need to help Bosnia-Herzegovina to revive its economy with the aim of enabling it to rely on itself in accordance with the Casablanca declaration and resolutions on Bosnia-Herzegovina. The members of the Contact Group welcomed all the efforts aiming at giving an impetus to the peace process and decided to follow closely the developments of the situation.

Turkish, Malaysian Ministers Depart

LD1905160795 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Turkish Foreign Minister Erdal Inonu left Rabat this morning after participating in the ministerial meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference contact group on Bosnia-Herzegovina. In a statement at Rabat-Sale airport, the Turkish foreign minister emphasized that yesterday's meeting had been fruitful and had dealt with finding ways of solving the Bosnian crisis in such a way as to guarantee the rights of the Muslims and implement the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah bin Hajji Ahmad Badawi also left Morocco. The Malaysian foreign minister expressed his satisfaction at the results of the Islamic contact group's meeting and the great interest shown by His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, in its proceedings.

Palestinian Affairs

PA Welcomes Israeli Decision on Expropriations

JN2205184895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am at noon today said the Israeli Government suspended its decision to expropriate 53 hectares of Palestinian lands in occupied Jerusalem.

Bar'am added that during an extraordinary meeting today, the Israeli Government decided to suspend all measures regarding the expropriation of lands and set up a special committee to take a position on the expropriation issue.

The [Palestinian] National Authority has welcomed the Israeli Government's decision to suspend the expropriation decision. However, it considered this decision as being insufficient.

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Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, said that what is wanted is to cancel the decisions and not only to suspend them. He added that UN Security Council Resolution 242 and the U.S. letter of assurances emphasize that Jerusalem is an indivisible part of the Palestinian territories which Israel occupied in 1967 and that these territories should not be encroached upon.

Abu-Rudaynah considered the Israeli suspension of the expropriation decision as an insufficient step. This suspension, however, shows the impact of the Palestinian, Arab, Islamic, and international pressures which made Israel reconsider its decisions.

Marwan Kanafani, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and spokesman, demanded that the Israeli Government's decision to suspend the land expropriations and refer the issue to a ministerial committee should be a final retreat from this policy and not a mere maneuver designed to avert a no-confidence motion. He, however, said that the National Authority welcomes this decision.

On another level, Kanafani said he cannot say that the Palestinian president is satisfied after his meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Peres. He added that the most important result of their meeting was Peres' commitment to the agreed date to begin [implementing the second phase].

Kanafani asserted that the Jerusalem issue, the expropriation of lands, and other issues will be discussed by His Majesty King Husayn and President 'Arafat during the latter's scheduled visit to Amman tomorrow.

Al-Husayni: Israeli Decision Step in Right Direction

JN2305102495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0900 GMT 23 May 95

[Report by Muhammad 'Abd-Rabbuh in Jerusalem]

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of Jerusalem in the Palestinian National Authority and head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has described Israel's decision to suspend the expropriation of 53 hectares of the occupied Arab Jerusalem land as a step in the right direction. He added that the step, however, is insufficient, and asked Israel to stop all settlement activity and cancel the confiscation of land in all occupied Palestinian areas.

Speaking after a meeting with foreign consuls at Orient House in Jerusalem this morning, al-Husayni said that Israel's retreat from the expropriation decision has been the result of several factors, the most important of which is the Palestinian popular moves coupled with official moves and contacts on the Arab and international levels in addition to Israel's domestic conditions.

Al-Husayni said that his meeting with foreign consuls today was devoted to reviewing activities and meetings that were held with Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal and the latest developments, especially the suspension of the expropriation decision and the lessons to be learned from it.

Answering a question on Israel's proposal to give permission for building 15,000 housing units in Arab areas in Jerusalem, al-Husayni said: We are preparing ourselves to use this possibility if it really exists. We have asked the Israelis to provide us officially with the statistics of which they spoke. They told us that it is possible to build 15,000 housing units in areas on which there are already constructions. However, we asked them if we are permitted to build houses in Sho'fat and Bayt Hanina and on the eastern slopes of Jerusalem such as the Mount of Olives.

Al-Husayni said he believed the Arab summit should not have been suspended, because there are so many issues that must be discussed and on which agreement must be reached.

'Urayqat Urges Israel To Cancel Expropriation Decision

JN2205162195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1452 GMT 22 May 95

[Interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, official in charge of local government in the Palestinian Authority, by correspondent Yasir 'Atilah on 22 May; date not given; from the "With the Events" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] ['Atilah] Good evening, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat.

['Urayqat] Good evening.

['Atilah] A short while ago, the Israeli Government decided to suspend the decision to expropriate lands in East Jerusalem and set up a ministerial committee, led by the prime minister, in order to discuss the overall aspects resulting from the expropriation. What is your comment, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat?

['Urayqat] What is wanted is to cancel the expropriation decision because it was illegal. What is also wanted is an acknowledgement by the Israeli Government that the status of Jerusalem will be negotiated in the final phase and that it will stop taking any unilateral measure which could harm these negotiations.

['Atilah] Dr. Sa'ib, how will this decision affect the Arab mini-summit scheduled to be held on Saturday [27 May]?

['Urayqat] The reasons for holding this summit still exist. Building is still continuing in all settlements in

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and around Jerusalem. Hence, the reasons for holding this summit still exist.

As I said, the Israeli Government should announce its full commitment to halting any unilateral measure on the ground. It should also loudly declare that this issue is not closed. In the Declaration of Principles the Israeli Government acknowledged that Jerusalem's final status will be discussed in the final phase negotiations. As you know, East Jerusalem is an indivisible part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967. [passage omitted]

PA Member Reacts to Suspension of Land Seizure

NC2305084395 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 23 May 95

[Telephone interview with Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, member of the Palestinian Authority, in Gaza, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Jundi] First, what is the Palestinian side's initial evaluation of the Israeli measure and does it regard the measure as positive or a tactical step?

[Al-Agha] We hope that it will not be a tactical step. We hope it will be the beginning of Israel's correction of its concept of the political process. Israel's measures on Jerusalem and confiscation of land complicated things because the Jerusalem question is very sensitive to us as Palestinians and to the entire world.

The stance was very clear at the Security Council, where all countries denounced this measure and asked Israel to cancel the confiscation. Besides, the political process was about to stop, or was on the brink of destruction, because of this Israeli measure. Therefore, I believe the Israeli Government may have received advice from outside, from the U.S. side although it used the veto, from Europe, and from friends around the world to rescind this measure so that the political process could progress.

[Al-Jundi] What do you think is the real motive behind this surprise decision by the Israeli Government?

[Al-Agha] I believe the real motive is that it did not want to appear to the world as the one who is wrecking the political process.

[Al-Jundi] Then what was the point behind this measure in the first place?

[Al-Agha] They expected things to pass off in the usual way. They expected the Palestinian and Arab reaction to be usual, as was the case in the past. But it was evident that the Palestinian side, supported by the Arab, Islamic, and world stance, insisted that there should be no steps taken in the peace process until Israel reconsidered its measure. Israel felt that the Palestinian and Arab stand was serious, that its measure could not pass off easily like this, and that it would bear the full responsibility for wrecking the political process, and so it backed down. Actually, I cannot say that this retreat... [pauses] I hope it will be a genuine retreat to serve the political process and not to avert world resentment.

[Al-Jundi] Do you believe that Faysal al-Husayni's [Palestinian official in charge of the Jerusalem file] statements and warnings about the outbreak of a new intifadah in the Palestinian land against this Israeli measure as well as the serious preparation for an Arab minisummit had a strong effect on the Israeli stance?

[Al-Agha] Yes, I believe Israel sensed that the situation was serious for the Palestinians because they would use all avenues to confront this measure, either internationally or locally. The Palestinian people and Palestinian Authority [PA] cannot stand as spectators while Israel confiscates these territories and acts illegally in Jerusalem. The Palestinian and Arab sides would have adopted serious resolutions through an Arab summit, most importantly halting the normalization. This is what President 'Arafat called for. The PA called on the Arab countries to halt normalization with Israel so that it would stop taking such action.

The whole process could have been wrecked because of these measures. I believe that some ministers, namely from Meretz and the Labor Party's left wing, pressured Rabin. Rabin adopted the measure despite opposition from within the Israeli Cabinet and stated that he was responsible for it. As you know, Rabin still behaves as a general more than a politician. It seems that all the reactions to Israel's confiscation of land, most importantly a fear of the outbreak of Palestinian action, such as the intifadah and acts of violence, in addition to a unified Arab stance made Israel or rather Rabin think twice and made the moderate side in the Labor Party and the Israeli Cabinet overwhelm the extremist party.

[Al-Jundi] How can we capitalize on what happened? Israel backed down on its decision in light of a serious Arab move, clear stance, and movement on the international forum. How can we benefit from what happened to serve the Arab and Palestinian cause, especially the Jerusalem question?

[Al-Agha] Some people have said that there is no use doing anything when Israel acts because it is impossible for it to back down and protests or any action is futile. What happened in the last days, especially yesterday, proved that a firm, clear, Palestinian stance and a unified Arab stance can produce a clear world stance that can

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pressure Israel to back down. This is a lesson from which we must benefit and be armed with in the future.

Qaddumi Accuses Rabin of 'Deception, Procrastination'

JN2205090195 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0645 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 22 May (WAKH) — Faruq Qaddumi, alias Abu-al-Lutuf, head of the PLO Political Department, has accused Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin of deception and procrastination. He said that Israel does not intend to implement the peace agreements and that it seeks only to swallow all of Palestine and put the Arab nation under its thumb.

In an interview with the Bahraini newspaper AL-AYYAM published today, Qaddumi said that the region is once again experiencing a tense atmosphere that may lead to the eruption of war. He called for restoring Arab solidarity and stopping normalization with Israel. He said that the economic, social, and political structure of Israel indicates that it does not want peace. He added that Israel is forging ahead with developing its military capabilities and maintaining the state of war in the region which serves Israel's goals. He noted that it seems peace will not serve Israel's expansionist goals.

Qaddumi added: Right from its inception, I have been opposed to the Oslo agreement. I did not want to bang my head against a wall." He noted that this experience has vindicated his viewpoint.

Qaddumi restated that he will not visit Gaza because he believes it is still an occupied territory. He said: What is going on in Gaza and Jericho is a theatrical produced by Tel Aviv and Washington. Peace has failed to secure security, freedom, or even funds.

He accused Israel of exerting pressure on Palestinians to create further differences among them and plunge them into in-fighting and civil strife, thus destroying the Palestinian national struggle.

Official Denies 'Arafat To Meet Habash, Hawatimah

JN2205101195 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 May 95 pp 24, 21

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The PLO Executive Committee has been called to convene in Tunis on 1 June to discuss the recent developments of the peace process. Executive Committee members have told AL-RA'Y that the invitations that were extended in the name of the Executive Committee Secretariat excluded six Executive Committee members; namely, 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, representative of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Taysir Khalid, representative of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; and Mahmud Isma'il, representative of the Arab Liberation Front. The other three members are independents, including 'Abdallah Hurani, Mahmud Darwish, and Shafiq al-Hut. The six members withdrew from the Executive Committee following the signing of the Oslo agreement on 13 September 1993. [passage omitted]

In another development, Salim al-Za'nun, acting speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC] and member of the Fatah Central Committee, has denied that a meeting will be held between President Yasir 'Arafat, during his visit to Amman on Tuesday [23 May], and George Habash and Nayif Hawatimah aimed at putting the Fatah or Palestinian house in order. He said: President 'Arafat's visit to his brother His Majesty King Husayn will be short, noting that the aim of the visit is to coordinate positions on the Jerusalem issue and agree on an effective Jordanian-Palestinian role vis-a-vis the mini-summit due to be held in Morocco on 27 May.

He stressed that Palestine and Jordan are the two Arab states most knowledgeable concerning the crucial issue of Jerusalem. He added that President 'Arafat will not have sufficient time to meet with the Jordan-based PNC members or PLO factions' cadres. [passage omitted]

'Abd-Rabbuh on Not Being Able To Enter Jerusalem

JN2205141995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli radio has said that the Israeli occupation forces prevented Culture Minister Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh from entering Jerusalem to attend a news conference held by Palestinians in protest against Israel's decision to expropriate lands in occupied Jerusalem.

The action against 'Abd-Rabbuh was taken on the pretext that he should have submitted a request to enter Jerusalem 24 hours prior to the news conference.

Commenting on this action, 'Abd-Rabbuh said this is a serious precedent and a clear violation of the agreement on the movements of the National Authority's ministers. He considered this action as a new escalation which could lead to negative repercussions, especially since it is part of the continued Israeli policy of expropriations and closure of the occupied territories, particularly Jerusalem.

In another development, the Israeli occupation authorities have arrested al-Mutawakkil Taha, director general

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of the [Palestinian] Information Ministry, for two hours and prevented him from participating in the news conference.

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat, Peres Begin Talks in Gaza City

JN2205114895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat is currently meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the Presidential Office in Gaza City. The talks are addressing the means to promote the peace talks and Israeli land confiscations and other violations in the occupied city of Jerusalem.

Marwan Kanafani, media adviser to President 'Arafat, has warned of the collapse of the entire peace process if Israel does not rescind its decision to confiscate Palestinian land in the occupied city of Jerusalem. He said he hoped Peres was carrying news reflecting an improvement on what is contained in Israeli statements.

Say 'Crisis' is Over

TA2205152795 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shim'on Peres met in Gaza today with the head of the Palestinian Authority [PA], Yasir 'Arafat. After numerous delays and doubts, it was decided that the agreement on implementing the next stage of the Oslo accords will be signed between the middle of June and the beginning of July. In the framework of the next stage, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is slated to redeploy in Judaea and Samaria and elections will be held in the territories. At the end of the meeting Yasir 'Arafat said that the decisions made are tantamount to a breakthrough. Shlomi Eldar reports from Gaza:

[Begin recording] [Eldar] Peres reached Gaza almost urgently. A motion of no-confidence was being debated in the Knesset, and the foreign minister had to turn away from the parliamentary pressure, landing in a helicopter in Gaza in an atmosphere of crisis over the issue of land expropriation in Jerusalem. At the conclusion of the meeting, which lasted about three hours, Peres and 'Arafat came out and announced the headline that 'Arafat has been desiring to hear for long months now.

[Peres, in English] We agreed to accelerate our negotiations over the coming two months that are available to us, and really try to conclude it as seriously and as fully as we can.

[Eldar] Israel and the PA are prepared for the implementation of the second stage of the peace agreement, which will take place between 15 June and 1 July, namely, the IDF redeployment and the elections. Yasir 'Arafat did not conceal his satisfaction.

['Arafat, in English] I hope that this will move accurately, according to what has been agreed upon, so that we will have very soon our elections after the redeployment.

[Eldar translates and continues] At the end of the meeting the two leaders could boast of an achievement: 'Arafat received a promise for the implementation of the second stage of the agreement, and in return the Jerusalem land expropriation affair will be struck off the agenda. Peres left Gaza with the feeling that he managed to surmount a crisis that threatened to halt the peace process. At the conclusion of the news conference, the two leaders said that the crisis was over.

['Arafat, in Arabic, followed by translation into English] We hope that we could both pass this crisis in our joint efforts. That means a lot of effort from both sides.

[Peres, in English] I agree.

[Eldar] Israel promised not to expropriate any more land in Jerusalem, and the crisis has cleared the way for hope, the two concluded. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 22 May adds that "Israel will transfer three more powers to the Palestinians in Judaea and Samaria: statistics, agriculture, and local government. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres informed Yasir 'Arafat of this at their meeting in Gaza today. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the number of powers which will be handed over to the Palestinians in Judaea and Samaria has reached eight. The transfer of powers will be discussed in Cairo next week at a meeting between Major General Oren Shahor, the coordinator of activities in the territories, and Jamil al-Tarifi, the head of the Palestinian delegation."]

Hold News Conference

JN2205190395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 May 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has stressed that the 1 July deadline to reach an agreement to redeploy the Israeli occupation forces outside residential areas in the rest of the West Bank and to hold the Palestinian legislative elections is a sacred one. President 'Arafat expressed hope that progress would be made in accordance with the agreement so as to hold the legislative elections following the redeployment process.

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At a news conference he and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres gave after their two-hour long meeting at the Presidential Office in Gaza, 'Arafat said that they discussed the issue of the confiscation of Palestinian lands in Jerusalem, as well as the approved dates for the redeployment and the holding of the elections. President 'Arafat referred to the Israeli Government's pledge not to confiscate any other lands in the holy city, stressing that this issue needs joint efforts by the two sides.

Regarding the confiscation of hundreds of hectares in the West Bank, President 'Arafat said: We have a pledge that Israel will not confiscate lands and that this issue would be discussed by the Palestinian and Israeli sides for the benefit of both sides.

For his part, Israeli Foreign Minister Peres asserted that his government would do its best to reach an agreement between 15 June and 1 July. He added that approximately 4,000 Palestinian workers would resume their work inside Israel and that Israel would pay 125 million shekels to the National Authority [NA] from taxes collected from Palestinian workers. He also said that several obstacles are still hampering the process.

Regarding the confiscation of lands in Jerusalem, Peres said that there are unofficial channels headed by Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem file, for the Palestinian side, and by Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal are negotiating the issue. He announced that there was an agreement to transfer eight powers in the West bank, including energy, agriculture, labor, and local government, to the NA. The two sides also agreed to speed up negotiations on elections, redeployment, and the transfer of powers to the NA, as well as other negotiations on economic and security issues during the next two months.

Peres added that a Middle East economic conference would be held in Amman on 30 October and another EU-sponsored economic and cultural conference would be held in Barcelona. He said that the two sides agreed to establish five industrial zones in Gaza Strip and to open the Rafah crossing next week to Palestinian goods exported to Egypt.

The two-hour long meeting was attended by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation. [Passage indistinct]

'Arafat Adviser Reviews Talks

JN2205152795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 May 95

[Interview with Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, by unidentified correspondent in Gaza on 22 May — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, his excellency the president met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today. What was the outcome of the meeting?

[Abu-Rudaynah] As you know, President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met with Israeli Foreign Minister Peres and his delegation at President Abu-'Ammar's office in Gaza, where they discussed the latest developments in the peace process, foremost of which is Israel's recent confiscation of Palestinian lands in and around the city of Jerusalem. In his review of the Palestinian position, brother Abu-'Ammar stressed that the recent decision to confiscate lands in the city of Jerusalem was illegal and that we have rejected the confiscation in part and parcel. The brother president stressed the need for them to refrain from confiscating other Palestinian land.

The brother president also reviewed the Arab, Islamic, and international stands on Jerusalem, considering that Jerusalem is a central issue to the Arab and Islamic nations and that any attempt to encroach on it will not be tolerated. The two sides also discussed the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli joint agreement and stressed the need to meet the 15 June deadline. Here, Peres stressed that his government would meet the 15 June to 1 July deadline stipulated in the transitional agreement. The talks also tackled several other issues, and the president then held an approximately 30-minute closed meeting with Shim'on Peres. As you know, brother Basim, the president and Peres held a news conference in which they responded to several questions and reviewed their talks.

[Correspondent] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, have you taken specific steps toward implementing the Declaration of Principles?

[Abu-Rudaynah] The two sides have decided to speed up the negotiations the subcommittees are holding on the details of several topics such as the elections, redeployment of Israeli forces, and the transfer of new powers in the occupied West Bank. They agreed to speed up these negotiations in order to achieve positive results by the 15 June deadline so that they can be implemented afterwards.

[Correspondent] Has Israel promised to take any concrete measures in this regard?

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[Abu-Rudaynah] The Israeli foreign minister reiterated his government's commitment to two basic issues, namely, the 1 July deadline, although we insist on the 15 June deadline. He also said that the Israeli Government would do what it should do to meet the 15 June deadline. At the news conference, he asserted that the Israeli Government would not confiscate more lands in Jerusalem. He also announced that the Israeli Government had agreed to give license to Palestinian Arab residents of Jerusalem area to build houses. All this, however, did not prevent tackling the Jerusalem issue as a whole. President Abu-'Ammar stressed the Palestinian position, which became an Arab one after the recent Arab League's meeting and which was conveyed to the Security Council. Fourteen member states of the council approved the Palestinian paper. We view this as an international recognition of Palestinian legitimate rights in occupied Jerusalem. We went to the Madrid peace conference, keeping in mind Resolution No. 242, which considers Jerusalem an occupied territory and that the city is legally a Palestinian land.

[Correspondent] So, we can say that the Israeli Government has promised to stop the confiscation of lands in Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied territories?

[Abu-Rudaynah] As we have said, this was announced by Peres. But this is not enough. They are required to rescind the confiscation decisions and to pledge not to confiscate more lands. We hope that the Israelis will fulfill their promises.

[Correspondent] Brother Nabil, what about the president's expected visit to Jordan and his participation in the expected Arab mini-summit?

[Abu-Rudaynah] As you know, the president will leave for Amman tomorrow afternoon to meet with his brother His Majesty King Husayn. The two leaders used to meet every five to six months to discuss the distinguished relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples. They will discuss the upcoming summit conference and the Jerusalem issue in particular. They will also tackle many other issues of common interest to the two peoples and the two leaders. We believe it will a successful visit, and the president then will leave Amman for Cairo to meet with President Mubarak.

[Correspondent] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, thank you very much.

[Abu-Rudaynah] You're welcome, Brother Basim.

Gulf States Reject Pressure To Establish Mideast Bank

NC2305105795 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 May 95 p 6

[Report by 'Abd-al-Rahman Isma'il]

[FBIS Translated Text] Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Bahrain have rejected U.S. and European pressures to make them shoulder the lion's share of financing the Middle East bank projects scheduled for the region as part of Israel's greater designs between the Arabs and the Zionist entity.

During the meetings of the economic working group stemming from the multilateral negotiations which began at the Foreign Ministry last Tuesday [16 May] and which were attended by the representatives of 31 Arab, European, and American countries, the three countries rejected the notion of establishing a Middle East bank. They stressed that the major countries want the Arab countries to shoulder the major part of financing while Israel will have the lion's share of development projects in the region that will be financed by the bank.

Sources in the Economy Ministry, which attended the meetings together with the Foreign Ministry, stressed that the Gulf countries' rejection of the notion to establish the bank led to a reduction in its proposed capital from $10 billion to $5 billion in order to encourage the Gulf states to contribute at least a third of the capital. The sources said that the United States and a number of European countries proposed that a third of the capital be distributed equally among the six Gulf states, that the United States and European countries contribute a third, with the IMF and the World Bank contributing the remaining third.

The economic working group is discussing the rules for establishing the bank which the United States is seeking to make similar to the European Reconstruction and Development Bank. The plan will be approved during the meeting to be held in Jordan in October with the bank's operations scheduled to start in early 1996.

The Zionist side's representative presented a memorandum detailing the Zionist entity's view of the bank's work. The memorandum was personally drawn up by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. The representative also presented a list of a number of projects Israel is proposing to set up in the region to be financed by the bank, most of them rail and land roads projects that will link Egypt, Israel, the self-rule areas, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria.

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Algeria

President Invites Political Parties for More Talks

LD2205181095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement from the president's office today says that during the bilateral meetings President Zeroual held last April with political parties and national organizations in the context of the dialogue on the coming presidential elections, some of these parties presented written contributions containing their points of view and proposals. On this occasion, the head of state gave guarantees to the authors of these files that their documents will be studied with interest and will be answered by the president's office.

In this framework, President Zeroual today sent a message to the officials of the following six parties: the HAMAS [Islamic Society Movement], the FLN [National Liberation Front], the FFS [Socialist Forces Front], the al-Nahdah movement, the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, and the National Party for Solidarity and Development. In this message, the head of state invited all these parties to hold bilateral meetings with the presidency's representatives in charge of studying the contents of the written file the presidency received from the political parties in question. The dates of meetings will be fixed in common accord.

FIS Spokesman on U.S., French Stands; Violence

NC2205135795 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 15 May 95 p 8

[Interview with Abu-Usamah by Sana' Baghdadi, media spokesman for Islamic Salvation Front abroad, in Kiel, Germany; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Baghdadi] There is an accusation alleging that the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] has set up a secret alliance with the United States. What is your reply to this?

[Abu-Usamah] The FIS rejects any alliance with other Islamic countries or groups, so how could it have an alliance with the United States? The neutral U.S. position toward the FIS and its attempt to make us participate in finding a moderate political solution might have made the public believe that there is an alliance between us and the United States. The truth is that the U.S. State Department held contacts with the FIS, but without results. The competition between the United States and France to obtain certain future interests in Algeria has made the former more flexible toward our group than France. But this does not mean that France is ready to give the United States the opportunity to control the situation. I reiterate that the FIS rejects any alliance with the United States or any help from it.

[Baghdadi] But there are confirmed reports that the FIS has held secret negotiations with France. What solutions have these negotiations reached?

[Abu-Usamah] No negotiations between the FIS and France have taken place. There was contact between the group and former French Interior Minister Michel Pasqua a year ago about a proposed negotiation between the FIS and the ruling regime in Algeria, but this contact was not followed up.

[Baghdadi] What is the FIS stance on the "barbaric" operations carried out by armed groups in Algeria, such as the killing of intellectuals, particularly writers and journalists? Is the shedding of blood the only way to solve the problem?

[Abu-Usamah] The FIS stance on violent acts that affect the innocent sons of the people is clear. It condemns the groups that do so, but we are defending ourselves against the regular Army and this is a legitimate defense we have gained through the ballot box. We were compelled to resort to self-defense when we were persecuted and we condemn anything beyond this. Each incident has its reasons. We assert that the FIS Army does not carry out operations against the innocent sons of the people. This must be made clear to every person. I also assert that we do not kill a person just because his ideas differ from ours. But those who entered the battle must bear its consequences. You are always talking about a journalist or a writer being killed, but forgetting that many families have fallen victim to the ruling regime. You are acting like the regime that ruled in South Africa. The papers wrote nothing when hundreds of black Africans were killed, but the whole world knew when a single white person was killed. Read the statistics of the Human Rights Defense League. They confirm that 121 youths under 18 were killed by the regular Army. There are more than 200 persons in the (Sirr Kahi) prison of whom nothing has been heard since the end of Ramadan. There was also the government's plot to kill FIS leaders and officials. All these statistics get lost and disappear if a journalist or writer dies.

[Baghdadi] Is the FIS cooperating with the other Islamic groups and what is the extent of the difference or agreement with them?

[Abu-Usamah] We support the moderate Islamic movements, but we have no links with their organizations. The FIS members remain convinced that they are trying to apply religion in accordance with what we believe to be in the interest of the people, taking into account

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all the factors in the country and the people. Our principle is constructive criticism of ourselves and of the other movements. Our objective is to apply Islam in our country one day or even in the world in general. But we differ from others in that we do not have any connections with other movements, such as the Muslim Brotherhood. This is our principle and we are upholding it.

[Baghdadi] What is the FIS stance on coordination and activities with the opposition parties and the other fronts, particularly the National Liberation Front?

[Abu-Usamah] The FIS is responsible for a cause and a project. We have explained this to the people. Our principle, as I have said previously, is to continue along this path. We confirm our position on our goal: to reach government through peaceful means to implement the Islamic shar'iah. This is something the laws of the country allow. The peaceful means are to enable our people to take part in elections through the method of persuasion and argument. In addition, we are ready to discuss and argue with the opposition parties to reveal the depth and qualification of the regime. Every party and organization is responsible for its action. Also, we condemn every organization that diverts from this course and we advise that the style be changed and steps be reviewed not to give some groups the chance to distort the reputation of the Islamic fronts through acts of sabotage, which will be pinned on the Islamic groups. We also clarify that we adhere to the legal framework of our religion and we condemn all those who move away from this framework. In addition, we advise others to follow this course.

[Baghdadi] What is the FIS stance on accusations from the official sides in Algeria that it rigged elections?

[Abu-Usamah] It is known that the government organized elections, so how can it be logical that they allow us to rig them? You also should not forget that there were some observers from the West. Do you think they would have accepted our doing so? I would also like to point out that the government prevented the municipalities from organizing or even participating in the organization of these elections so that no rigging would take place. Representatives from the Interior Ministry were appointed to supervise elections. There were also over 300 foreign monitors distributed in all areas where elections were taking place. The accusation of rigging has no grounds. You also should not forget that after we acquired 188 seats in the National People's Assembly, some were contested with the National Consultative Council. Two weeks after these were submitted, we scored victories in other constituencies. The people contributed toward the victory of our party, so how can you say that we rigged elections. These are rumors with no basis.

[Baghdadi] Will Algeria be transformed into the Lebanon of the Arab Maghreb through the conflicts between the various sides?

[Abu-Usamah] Of course not, because the nature of the ideological atmosphere in Algeria is completely different from the atmosphere in Lebanon. The war in Lebanon was a conflict, or battle, or fighting between the regime's parties—the police or the the army—and some popular sides. But our situation is different because the Islamic opposition received the absolute majority that caused concerns among some foreign parties. France armed some of the opposition groups backed by the state so that they could prove to the rest of the world that a civil war was erupting in Algeria. But the FIS was aware of what was happening and averted military confrontation between it and those groups so that it would not give the state the chance to exploit these events. However, I admit that there are individuals who behave emotionally, particularly among those who lost family members at the hands of the regime's men. The government uses these individuals to degrade the reputation of the FIS toward public opinion. I would like to confirm to you that the existing battle today is a battle between the Army and the people, not a battle of some parties against others, as was the case in Lebanon.

[Baghdadi] Reports say that both Iran and Sudan are financing the FIS. What is your reply?

[Abu-Usamah] They are rumors circulated by the Western states. How can we Sunnis accept aid from a Shiite state such as Iran with different religious principles and structures? As for Sudan, you know that it is a poor country suffering from an economic crisis. It needs aid rather than the other way around. Furthermore, Sudan is watched by the West. I believe the West will not give Sudan the chance to help any Islamic force that threatens it. As for financing from within Algeria itself, there is a popular cohesion and aid comes from merchants and rich people who believe in our sincere mission and who voluntarily help the FIS materially and morally. Nevertheless, I admit that the FIS is in financial straits. About 4,500 families do not have sufficient means for livelihood either because the breadwinner is in prison or because he is living or struggling in the diaspora. As for military resources, even the regime itself has admitted that we have manpower. If we have sufficient weapons, we will overthrow the regime immediately.

[Baghdadi] Shaykh al-Turabi has tried to mediate between the ruling regime in Algeria and the FIS. Have these attempts produced any results?

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[Abu-Usamah] Shaykh al-Turabi has taken steps to facilitate the negotiating process between us and the government. We approve of these steps, which are good but, regrettably have produced no concrete results. These steps have been met by deaf ears.

[Baghdadi] It is known that Shaykhs Abbasi Madani and Ali Belhadj are languishing in Algerian prisons. Has their mission as FIS leaders ended for the time being?

[Abu-Usamah] Although we do not know the whereabouts of Madani and Belhadj, especially since their release in September and their remand under house arrest, we indisputably consider them legitimate leaders of the FIS to maintain the FIS structure. Now Rabah Kebir is the FIS leader abroad, while Ali Djeddi, Abdelkader [word indistinct], and [word indistinct] Hejazi are in charge of the Executive Committee at home.

[Baghdadi] If the FIS assumes power, will it implement democracy and give the ruling regime the opportunity to represent the people if necessary?

[Abu-Usamah] What I am saying is not a statement, as some journalists think, but a clear fact. In our project and program, if we reach power, we will apply Islam as it was applied during the caliphate era. During that era Muslims knew freedom of opinion and criticized the ruler whom they had voluntarily chosen. We will not say that we are God's messengers on earth. This does not conform with our principles and with the Islamic doctrine. As you know, the caliph was chosen by Muslims. So we will not try to stay in power by force. We will open the door for a sound democratic regime. We have affirmed this in our last document, which says we have chosen a peaceful and democratic course. Regrettably, some are accusing us of being undemocratic before we assume power. It is as if they are accusing a man of being a thief before he burgles a shop. However, I affirm that it is not we who abolished democracy but the ruling regime, which invalidated the outcome of the elections. We will continue to deal with the other parties. We will continue to wrestle with the Constitution to win the confidence and support of the people, who will facilitate our affairs.

EL-TABYIN Magazine Editor Killed Outside House

LD2305094595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 23 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Bakhti Benaouda, a researcher and editor of EL-TABYIN magazine, was killed outside his house last night. Bakhti Benaouda, who was 34 years old, became editor of EL-TABYIN following the death of Amar Belahcene. The Djahidiya Society reported the news in a statement. [passage omitted]

Security Services Eliminate 30 'Terrorists'

LD2305082395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Security Services statement released today states that the Security Services have succeeded in eliminating 30 terrorists in different parts of the homeland, and also recovered a quantity of weapons during their operations.

Egypt

Musa Reacts to Israeli Suspension of Expropriation

Says Delay of Arab Summit Possible

NC2205154895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 May (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that intensive contacts are being held at the highest level to consider the suspension of the scheduled Arab mini-summit in light of the Israeli Government decision today to suspend the decision made on the expropriation of land in east Jerusalem.

Minister Musa said that these contacts will also try to keep open the option of holding the summit whenever circumstances warrant.

Warns That 'Difficulties' Remain

NC2205194395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 May (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has described the Israeli Government's decision to suspend the confiscation of Palestinian land in East Jerusalem as a sound step in the right direction.

In statements this evening, the foreign minister said that this step is bound to put the issue of Jerusalem in a sound framework; namely, no measures should be taken to change Jerusalem's geographical, demographic, and legal status during the current stage. He said that in light of this decision, all measures to convene an Arab minisummit have been suspended because the basic purpose of the summit was to discuss the issue of Jerusalem as well as other issues.

The foreign minister said that no measures should be made unilaterally concerning Jerusalem because it is a subject of negotiations and also because it is an extremely sensitive issue. He said that the reaction

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was clear on the Arab, regional, Islamic, and Christian levels. He added: This, however, does not prevent me from saying that the step made by the Israeli Government is a sound step in the right direction.

The Egyptian foreign minister said: As is known, there are difficulties facing the peace process at present. However, as I understand it, a Palestinian-Israeli agreement will be concluded on 1 July concerning the redeployment of forces and elections. We will be awaiting this development.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that intensive efforts were made on the other tracks, particularly the Syrian track. We are following this situation closely. We hope that the peace process will proceed in the right direction on the basis of the land for peace principle and the elements agreed upon in Madrid. He added: It is important that the peace process continue and succeed. He said that this success cannot be achieved if measures are adopted unilaterally. These measures are bound to harm the future of the peace process, the foreign minister said.

Responding to a question on the next step Egyptian diplomacy will take, Musa replied that Egyptian diplomacy is working at its highest levels today. He explained that President Mubarak held several contacts this afternoon in the wake of the Israeli decision.

He added that Arab contacts will continue and that the peace process will continue. These contacts will be at the leaders level to consult on the summit, he said.

Asked whether the Israeli decision to freeze rather than reverse the expropriation of land is a tactic, Musa said: As long as this step was taken, let us view it positively and say that a right step was taken toward the full reversal of these measures.

Replying to a question on whether the Israeli decision was in response to the Egyptian position on the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Musa said: We are going along with the other issue concerning Israel's nuclear program and we have our position on Jerusalem. It was the right step and we hope it will be followed by other steps to clear the atmosphere.

Asked whether the Israeli freeze was in submission to domestic pressures in Israel, Musa said: The freeze was the result of many things. What counts is that it was taken.

Turkmen Government Delegation Pays Official Visit

Defense Minister Meets Counterpart

NC2205170695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1350 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 May (MENA) — Field Marshal Husayn Tantawi, commander general of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, today received Lieutenant General Dana Tar Kopekov, minister of defense in Turkmenistan, who accompanied President Saparmurad Niyazov on his visit to Cairo.

In the meeting, they discussed ways to bolster military cooperation between the two countries. The senior commanders of the Armed Forces also attended the meeting.

Mubarak Meets President Niyazov

NC2305100595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0740 GMT 23 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 May (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov resumed their talks in a bilateral session at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis this morning. They discussed several issues of common interest, in addition to boosting bilateral relations and expanding the scope of economic cooperation between the two countries. The two presidents then held an expanded session of talks.

Attending the talks on the Egyptian side were Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi; Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; Field Marshal Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production; Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali, minister of state for international cooperation; Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub; Minister of Local Government Dr. Mahmud Sharif; Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz; Irrigation Minister 'Abd-al-Hadi Radi; Economy Minister Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud; Dr. Zakariya 'Azmi, chief of the President's Office; and Egyptian Ambassador in Moscow Nabil al-'Urabi.

On the Turkmen side, the delegation of Turkmenistan accompanying President Niyazov took part in the talks.

President Mubarak and Turkmen President Niyazov attended the signing of four agreements on joint cooperation between Egypt and Turkmenistan at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis.

The first agreement, concerning economic, scientific, and technical cooperation, was signed for Egypt by

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Dr. Yusuf Ghali, minister of state in the cabinet for international cooperation affairs, and for Turkmenistan by Otchertsov, deputy prime minister and minister of economy.

The second agreement dealing with trade cooperation was signed for Egypt by Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud, minister of economy and foreign trade, and for Turkmenistan by Deputy Prime Minister Saparov. The third, on mutual encouragement and protection of investments, was signed for Egypt by Dr. Ghali and Saparov.

The fourth agreement concerning consultation between the two countries' foreign ministries was signed by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Turkmen Foreign Minister Muradov [name and title as received].

Joint Communique Issued

NC2305104195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0820 GMT 23 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 May (MENA) — Egypt and Turkmenistan have agreed to open embassies in Cairo and Ashkhabad to further consolidate relations between the two countries.

A joint communique issued following talks between President Husni Mubarak and Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov stressed the importance of developing trade exchange and cooperation between the two countries, encouraging mutual investments, and driving the private sector in this direction.

The communique noted that four cooperation agreements on economy, trade, encouragement and protection of investments, and consultation between the two countries' foreign ministries have been signed.

The communique said that the talks between President Mubarak and Saparmurad Niyazov were conducted in a friendly atmosphere and that views were exchanged on current world issues, especially the situation in the Middle East and Central Asia, in addition to bilateral relations.

Niyazov invited President Mubarak to visit Turkmenistan and a date for the visit will be fixed through diplomatic channels.

The Turkmen president thanked President Mubarak and the Egyptian people for the warm reception and hospitability he and the Turkmen delegation enjoyed during the visit.

Ministers Comment on Accords

NC2305110695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0900 GMT 23 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 May (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said the agreement that was signed today between the Egyptian and Turkmen Foreign Ministries deal with issues of common interest in the two countries' foreign policies. He added that the agreement also deals with coordination in these areas, in addition to coordination on the situation in both regions.

Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali, minister of state for international cooperation, said the joint cooperation agreements signed today between Egypt and Turkmenistan lay the foundations for economic and technical cooperation between the two countries.

He added that Turkmenistan has vast natural resources and that Egypt has human and industrial means to use these resources so cooperation between the two countries has broad prospects.

He said the bilateral agreement signed today to protect investments will help develop this important sector of the two countries' relations, adding: We need to devise controls to protect each country's investments in the other. He noted that the agreement signed between the two countries on economic, scientific, and technical cooperation will establish the bases for such cooperation.

Dr. Ghali pointed out that the main winner in this respect is Egypt because it possesses supplementary natural resources. These complementary resources, he said, enables Egypt to utilize its own natural resources as well as utilizing some of the technologies that Turkmenistan had when it was part of the former Soviet Union.

He said these two agreements lay the cornerstone for economic cooperation between the two countries. The two agreements, he added, will be enforced as soon as an agreement is reached with the Turkmen minister of cooperation to form a joint committee. An agreement will be reached on the committee's meeting in any of the two capitals to devise plans to utilize the two countries' resources, he said.

Peaceful Program Urged After New York NPT 'Success'

NC2205154695 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
16 May 95 p 2

[Article by Chief Editor Majdi Husayn: "A Diplomatic Success, but..."]

[FBIS Translated Text] I disagree with some writers in the official and opposition newspapers who were disap-

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pointed by the results of the New York conference on the indefinite extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT]. No better outcome could have been possible. Egypt, together with all the other Arab countries and a group of African, Asian, and Latin American countries, achieved a diplomatic success. The most that could be hoped for was to prevent the major nuclear powers from obtaining a sweeping majority. This was achieved. Of 178 NPT signatories, only 104 agreed to the treaty's indefinite extension. As a result, the United States and the other major nuclear powers resorted to adopting the extension resolution without a frank vote in order to conceal the magnitude of the opposition. When we add to the 74 countries that were opposed to the indefinite extension the 13 countries that never signed the treaty to begin with, the number of opponents rises to 87, nearly 20 percent [as published] of the world's countries. This of course has no legal effect but its moral weight is significant.

Now it is time to weigh things soberly. Egypt must exploit the political and media umbrella which it created on the domestic, regional, and international scenes to begin seriously developing a peaceful nuclear program. If we do not do this, our diplomatic success will turn into one big cipher.

Nevertheless, recent statements by Egyptian officials do not bode well. They regard this "diplomatic success" as a step on the road to clearing the Middle East of nuclear weapons. We must stop this nonsensical talk. Israel will not throw its nuclear weapons into the sea as a result of this "verbal bombardment."

The Egyptian electricity minister is still saying that Egypt halted its nuclear program as a result of the Chernobyl incident!! He says this when Canada is negotiating to sell nuclear reactors to China and several other Asian countries. The minister insists that Egypt will turn to wind and solar energy production... anything but the atom. All this is an ominous sign that we are moving toward the "big cipher."

We recall here a remark by Dr. Mamduh 'Abd-al-Ghafur, deputy chairman of the Nuclear Materials Authority, made to AL-AHRAM newspaper. He said: "We—original builders of civilization—must pass through the nuclear era as a necessary stage in our progress toward a new civilization. Any delay to do this will be a setback for which we must compensate."

Sir, we admit our error when in the early 1980's we launched a campaign against nuclear reactors out of fear of environmental damage. Sir, we amended this attitude in 1986, that is, nine years ago, and launched a campaign against the Zionist and Western domination that sought to prevent us from acquiring nuclear technology.

We declare that our rulers' fear of foreign threats is the main reason for abandoning this national project. We are still urging them to be courageous or leave power.

"Verily in this is a message for any who has a heart and understanding or who gives ear and earnestly witnesses the truth." [Koranic verse]

Morocco

Foreign Ministry: 'Disappointment' at U.S. Veto

LD2005093395 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 20 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Tel Aviv authorities have decided to confiscate new Palestinian land in the occupied West Bank this time. [passage omitted]

The new Israeli decision comes at a time when the wave of Arab denunciation and protests resulting from the U.S. veto of a Security Council resolution condemning Israel for confiscating Palestinian land has not calmed down.

The Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Ministry's spokesman expressed Morocco's disappointment at the U.S. decision, describing it as contradicting the resolutions of the same council on the status of Jerusalem, particularly in connection with Israel's commitment not to change the demographic, geographic, and institutional features of this city. [passage omitted]

King Hassan Speaks on Agriculture 'Disaster'

LD1705134595 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2108 GMT 16 May 95

[Speech by King Hassan to the nation from the Royal Palace in Rabat — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Praise be to God, and blessings and peace be on our master the prophet of God, his family and followers.

My dear people: Since you and I committed ourselves to one another, we decided to accept the bitter and the sweet, the good and the bad, just as we committed ourselves to speak frankly to one another about the situation and circumstances. So here I am today, undertaking my duty to speak frankly to you and tell you that agricultural production for this year in Morocco must be considered a national disaster because it is no more than 16 million kantars.

I say it is a national disaster because 16 million kantars represents a quarter of the level attained in average years. I say it is a national disaster because this year came preceded by three or four years of drought, with the exception of last year. Finally, I say it is a national

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disaster, not in order to establish your determination nor to detract from your courage, but I am telling you this disaster is an incentive to you, a spur, so that we can face up to the challenge facing us. [passage omitted]

What harm will we suffer from this drought? There are numerous types of damage, including those which are obvious and those which are not. This is because we see that in a good agricultural year, financial circulation [al-rawaj al-mali] is between 6 and 7 million centimes. But this year, we will not reach even one-fifth or one-sixth of this amount.

Despite this, we must ensure two things: first, food, which thanks be to God is secure. The foreign currency which, thanks be to God, is available to Morocco will enable it to bring grain from abroad. But grain alone is not enough. There is also work and employment in rural areas in particular. [passage omitted]

Today, the rural areas are disaster-stricken and we must take them by the hand. It is our duty to be responsible for them, take them by the hand, and all mobilize so that the village dweller does not feel far from electricity and potable water, far from the medicine essential for every human being, far from schools, so that the deprived man who lives in a backward area does not feel that the other inhabitants have been forgotten. [passage omitted]

A program for the employment of countrymen has been laid down. This program would require at least 370 billion dirhams. How did we allocate it? We allocated 44 billion dirhams for cattle; and for water, water exploration, water wells, and small irrigation nearly 24 billion dirhams. The local authorities will also contribute 50 billion dirhams. As for the workshops, there will be no new employment; for equipment, we have allocated 97 billion dirhams. All this is not enough. We will have to find the extra 120 billion dirhams, in other words, nearly $200 million. I will keep this deficit until the end and will tell you how we can meet it.

This, as I have said, my dear people, is a catastrophe and I beg God, the almighty, not to let it reoccur. [passage omitted]

We must draw a lesson from this, however. Naturally, agriculture will remain the basis of Moroccan wealth, but if other wealth alongside agriculture is prosperous, strong, and growing, then we will be able to bear the shock of drought. [passage omitted]

From now on, we must create instruments for making this wealth, a wealth parallel to agriculture by means of investments, laws, by focusing on progressing — individually, collectively, and especially administratively, to get rid of these shackles which, day in day out, are not leaving us any room for maneuvering or creation. There are necessary solutions in the promulgation of new laws. Thus, a labor law must be introduced as soon as possible, as well as a law on investments and a law on trade and companies. These three laws are necessary for any investor, whether Moroccan or foreigner, and these will be, as I said, the basic instruments to build a diversified economy, founded not only on agriculture and what goes with it, but also on nonagricultural activities. We say: A labor law, an investments law, a law governing trade and companies will be the basis of any investment action. Alongside this, there will be a law on water or reasonable use of water. [passage omitted]

In addition to these laws, we must introduce a law regulating the Economic and Social Council, and we must also look further ahead. I will tell you how. Dear people, these laws are now ready and they will be submitted to parliament before the end of this ordinary session, if not within the next two weeks. [passage omitted]

Likewise, there is now a serious thought on cutting the spending of both state and public institutions. There will be a five percent cut to start with, which will enable us to save 1 billion dirhams. Admittedly, five percent will not be enough; we can achieve a higher cut rate, and the higher the rate, the better.

Dear people, there is something else I consider essential for the country and for any institution, whether legislative or executive: we have to amend the constitution concerning the financial law. The financial law says that parliament must adopt the budget by 31 December, but that date has passed and we see it that the situation of finances and budget at the end of the year is not adequate and does not conform to reality: currently, the government has to draft a budget law and parliament has to pass it, either with or without amendment; but by then, it is possible to know how the agricultural season will be; no one can by December foresee how the farming season will go. For this reason, it is my view that it is necessary, logical, and realistic that the budget law be submitted to parliament at the beginning of May of next year, God willing. Parliament will have May and June to examine and decide on the budget law. Parliament used to have November and December to decide on the budget law. This amendment obviously requires a referendum which, God willing, will be carried out at the right moment because we want to abandon speculation as soon as possible. We will thus be able to think of the possibility for the government and parliament to discuss at the October session an amendment to the financial law until the new financial law is submitted to parliament at the beginning of May.

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Dear people, all this requires material measures, but whatever they may be, material measures will be useless if taken in inappropriate conditions.

Here we have to look at the social aspect. More than ever before, social dialogue should be initiated, and I will personally see to it that it is. I consider this year as the year of national catastrophe of drought and, God willing, it will occur once. Social dialogue is a fundamental element in the political, social, industrial, and agricultural non-drought.

I will personally follow up the following stages. First, problems should be prioritized. Naturally, whatever we can do we will do [words indistinct]. Yes, there are priorities and we have to organize them accordingly. Second, we have to adopt for ourselves a rule for work, to set dates and times to fulfill our pledges gradually according to the program and the daily action plan, which we have laid down — define a timetable of reforms, an exact timetable in time and according to the availability of means.

This dialogue is not meant to be for one time only; dialogue must continue. This is a necessary thing; and as I have told you, my dear people, I will personally ensure the continuation of this dialogue between all parties concerned in the world of labor and the world of employers. I would like to say, however, that there is an essential element we are lacking in this dialogue, namely, the general confederation of Moroccan contractors. I would say to them: Your confederation is not sufficient and not representative and does not have the quality to show up to the commitment. I invite them to form, within a month and within the nearest possible time, a guild for employers, not for big capital and large commerce only, but for the real network of our economy as we want it, a network of small- and medium-size contractors. If this guild intends to have its role within the social dialogue, and it has a role within the social dialogue, it must be at the level of its partners and it should show competence as regards its commitment.

Dialogue should not always be between the government and the toiling working class or between the government and the employers. No, problems should be discussed within the balanced and parallel dialogue between workers and employers. This dialogue cannot be parallel to other dialogues or balanced in terms of commitment unless the guild or confederation of Moroccan employers has the size and foundation for the commitment. Therefore, I officially and publicly invite them to devote their time to study this problem because the nonexistence of an interlocutor of this shape and of this level will be an important loophole, particularly because within this month, the draft law organizing the economic and social council will be submitted before the parliament; and they have their role in this council and I greatly depend on their role. Why? I greatly depend on them as I depend on the unions so that Morocco will seem appropriate to the coming century or the end of the century we are living in.

The time is gone when the factory boss is an enemy to the worker, and the worker a bitter opponent of the factory boss. This mentality no longer exists. It has gone. [passage omitted]

The government should have as a dialogue partner trade unions founded on correct legal bases which can stand comparison with those in neighboring countries, trade unions that can be positive instruments to deal with and study social problems. [passage omitted]

I hope both powers, the government and the parliament, will raise the level of their debate. We want them also to lift their heads and look at the future, to bring us ideas, bring us philosophy, bring us principles and approaches. Neither of them are — everyone is awaiting Wednesday [17 May] evening; allow me, my dear people, with all respect, to watch the circus — neither the one nor the other. This is unbelievable.

This is not our hope from democracy. This is not what we await from democracy. We expect from democracy a balanced and reasonable discourse. [passage omitted]

As the French saying goes: One cannot hear when one is hungry. Thus, we will confront all intellectuals with their moral and spiritual responsibilities. We should remain calm, change our tone, our language, raise its level so as to be more respectable. [passage omitted]

Dear people, you remember that in 1972, we sent a military contingent to the Golan Heights. The contingent had the courage and heroism that it still has, and our brothers in the Middle East, not just in the Golan and afterwards in Sinai, still remember and think well of us. Syrians and Egyptians speak about us as if we were brothers to them. [passage omitted]

My hope rests on those capable of donating, whether it is a day of their monthly salary, or 15 days of their salaries, or for those who are wealthy to give up two or three months of salary. I have the confidence that this action and solidarity will reach the same level. [passage omitted]

Let us persevere and march on, putting our confidence and our faith in God the almighty. He will not waste the wages of those who work nor disappoint those who ask for help. Peace and God's blessing be upon you.

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Kuwait

Finance Committee Rejects Draft Budget

LD2105185495 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1633 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 21 May (KUNA) — The Financial and Economic Affairs Committee of the National Assembly today rejected the draft budget of the government ministries and departments submitted for the fiscal year 1995-96.

The chairman of the committee Dr Isma'il al-Shatti told newsmen afterwards: "The committee intended to reject the general budget or any budget unless it contained a clear plan to tackle the deficit as indicated in the recommendations of the committee on this issue." [passage omitted]

Al-Shatti said that the committee did not adopt this stand in the shadow of the current circumstances, but in the face of its historic responsibilities before an economic impasse, its aim was to safeguard Kuwait's economic future and hence it adopted this stance.

Deputy Isma'il al-Shatti called on the government to provide a plan to counter the deficit as soon as possible and to include in it a vision that defines the state revenues and expenditures for the coming years and the way to create new and growing sources of state revenue.

Al-Shatti denied that the rejection of the draft budget is "a political tactic" on the part of the committee. He stressed that the aim of the committee is to confront the executive authority with its responsibilities. [passage omitted]

It is worth recalling that the draft budget for 1995-96 showed a drop in the deficit of about 285 million dinars compared with the figure for 1994-95.

The estimated overall revenues in the new budget were 2.91 billion dinars, an increase of 273 million dinars compared with the budget of the current year, whereas approximate expenditures are 4.1 billion dinars, a drop of 40 million dinars.

Cabinet To Examine Defense Ministry 'Excesses'

LD2105181195 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic
1700 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held its weekly meeting this morning under the chairmanship of his highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister. After the meeting, the second deputy prime minister and finance minister said that the cabinet was informed, at the beginning of the session, about the official visit that his highness the amir will pay to the United Kingdom from 23-26 May. [passage omitted]

On the occasion of this visit, which falls within the framework of the excellent historical relations between Kuwait and Britain, the Cabinet hailed Britain's honorable positions in rejecting and confronting the Iraqi treacherous aggression against the State of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

The Council of Ministers expressed its confidence that this visit will give positive results that will lead to a further strengthening of the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries in what serves the interests of the two friendly peoples. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir, the defense minister, talked about the measures taken by his ministry regarding the report by the commission of inquiry set up by the fact-finding commission of the National Assembly concerning reported excesses within the Defense Ministry.

The Council of Ministers decided to set up a commission headed by a magistrate, and including two representatives from the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, the Finance Ministry, and the Board of Fatwa and Legislation. [This commission] will investigate the facts included in the aforementioned report and will submit its own report to the Council of Ministers before any necessary action is taken on the matter. [passage omitted]

The Cabinet then discussed political issues and reviewed a number of reports on the latest political developments. The Cabinet also condemned the decision of the Israeli authorities to confiscate Palestinian lands in Jerusalem.

The Cabinet also expressed its sincere hope that serious joint efforts will be made to boost the peace process with a view to achieving a comprehensive and just peace and enabling all the peoples in the region to enjoy stability.

Joint Assembly, Ministerial Team To Solve 'Dispute'

LD2105080595 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
0725 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 21 May (KUNA) — The Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdullah al-Salim al-Sabah yesterday evening held a meeting with a number of National Assembly members. The meeting resulted in the establishment of a joint commission that contains a number of Assembly members and ministers to discuss all concepts and ideas which were submitted during the meeting in an

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endeavor to arrive at a solution within the framework of total commitment to the Constitution. The meeting discussed the methods for settling the dispute between the legislative and executive authorities regarding the request made by the government to the constitutional court to interpret Article 71 of the Constitution. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Daily Sees U.S. Land Veto as 'Electioneering'

MM2205081295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 May 95 p 9

[Article by 'Uthman Mirghani: "The Arab Causes and the U.S. Internal Battle"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arabs should expect many blows in the season of the U.S. election race.

The U.S. veto of the draft resolution calling on Israel to cancel its expropriation of land in East Jerusalem has nothing to do with principles as claimed by Madeleine Albright, the U.S. representative at the United Nations. More likely, that position was based on internal political considerations.

Albright's assertion that the Security Council is not the appropriate place to discuss the Jerusalem issue and that the matter should be left to the parties concerned does not seem logical. The United Nations and the Security Council are the right place to consider pending and complex issues, otherwise what is the use of the international organization and how is one to interpret its intervention in other areas such as Bosnia, Afghanistan, Cyprus, Angola, and all other hotbeds of tension.

The American position was dictated by internal considerations after the Republican Party's recent attitude in Congress and its bill calling for the U.S. Embassy to be moved to Jerusalem. The United States is already living in the atmosphere of the forthcoming presidential elections. As usual, the candidates are racing to please the Zionist lobby in the United States and to raise funds to finance the election campaigns. In that race to win Israel's approval, the first shot was fired by the Republicans with such candidates as Robert Dole making speeches expressing absolute commitment to supporting Israel, outbidding even Israeli officials themselves in so doing.

Because President Bill Clinton's administration was embarrassed and had to declare its opposition to the Congress decision to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, it, for election reasons, had to find another issue on which to demonstrate its utter support for Israel to prevent the Republicans from monopolizing the field.

The decision to veto the Security Council's draft resolution on the confiscation of east Jerusalem land, therefore, appears to be more of an electioneering step than a matter of principle.

In the U.S. presidential election year, the Arabs should expect numerous shocks from the candidates who will compete to win financial aid and victory for the Zionist lobby. That reality will only change if the Arabs win the broader public relations battle and make use of their expatriate communities in various parts of the world including the United States.

Opposition Leader al-Mas'ari Discusses Activities

MS2305092795 London THE INDEPENDENT in English 23 May 95 p 11

[Report on interview with opposition leader Muhammad al-Mas'ari by unidentified correspondent in London; date note given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The British Government may not be celebrating the presence in London of the Saudi opposition, but British Telecom certainly is. "Our last telephone bill was 27,000 pounds," Muhammad Mas'ari said wearily. "Everybody has been calling us collect on the free-phone numbers from Saudi Arabia because it leaves no record on their own phone bills." There is no constitutional right to freedom of speech in the kingdom but, clearly, some Saudis think it is good to talk.

Since Mr Mas'ari arrived in London — an exile — last year, the modest suburban premises of his movement have become the focus of opposition to the royal family of Saudi Arabia. The Saudi government alternately denounces Mr Mas'ari as a menace or dismisses him as irrelevant. Its ambassador in Britain, Ghazi al-Gusaybi, has become inured to pamphlets and vigils outside his Belgravia embassy calling for holy insurrection.

But Mr Mas'ari's activities have furrowed brows in the Foreign Office, whose representatives are on the receiving end of Saudi royal displeasure. Britain's ambassador in Riyadh, David Gore-Booth, is believed to have argued for a tough line against Mr Mas'ari and in favour of unflinching British support for the House of Sa'ud.

"Ah, Mr Gore-Booth," mused Mr Mas'ari. "Well, he is doing his job properly — in your short-term interests, that is." Mr Mas'ari takes the longer view. "I have regarded myself as a revolutionary since the 1960s. I am very patient. But I do believe this is the job of one generation. Look, the Iranian movement took only 30 years — it can be done in one generation: the seeds sown and the harvest brought in."

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Mr Mas'ari is 48, with two wives and eight children. He is best known as the man behind the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR), which promotes itself as a pressure group for the improvement of human rights and peaceful reform in Saudi Arabia. But the CDLR, Mr Mas'ari said, is a broad church which encompasses people of various persuasions united by dislike of the Saudi royals. He himself, as a revolutionary militant, does not disguise its utility.

"I believe in pulling the regime out by the roots," Mr Mas'ari said. In the course of two hours' conversation he comes across as a man whose Muslim religious integrity is absolute but whose political method is Leninist. He speaks of his network of informants in Saudi Arabia, men who adopt codenames and professions on the phone to north London, people "almost up to the fringe of the royal family, up to brigadier rank in the army and very high-ranking in the secret police". He quotes Mao on paper tigers. And his next task is the drafting of what he acknowledges could be seen as an Islamic Manifesto.

Mr Mas'ari was professor of physics at King Saud University in Riyadh when he joined a group of prominent religious and academic thinkers to form the CDLR in 1993.

At first their petitionings and complaints were accorded the traditional royal tolerance. But when they continued to make allegations of corruption, the secret police were called in. Mr Mas'ari was arrested and was, he says, tortured. So were dozens of others. Eventually he escaped into exile. The CDLR hands out a list of 277 people it says are political prisoners, many of them clergymen and scholars. "The al-Sa'ud," said Mr Mas'ari, "are at war with the cream of the country."

It remains impossible to verify the committee's claims of widespread subversion or, indeed, to contradict the government's assertion that everything is tranquil. An unusual number of executions by the sword this year may testify to little more than a recessionary crime wave and a determination by the authorities to prove that their zeal for Islamic punishment is beyond challenge.

But, just in case Mr Mas'ari turns out to be right, his account of how the Saudi opposition grew up is worth careful study.

"Of course, in the boom years after 1973 the people had so much that they didn't mind the corruption," he said. But a group of Islamist thinkers had come to conclude that the rule of the House of Sa'ud was illegitimate. "Any regime based on inheritance and lineage cannot be Islamic at all," he said. The contract in Islam between ruler and subject, known as bay'ah, had been breached.

Then in 1979 came the Islamic revolution in Iran. Its impact on Saudis, said Mr Mas'ari, was enormous. At the same time the long war in Afghanistan — "a clear case of jihad" — had great influence. "A large number of young people went to fight, learned to use weapons and found their own independence,"

Mr Mas'ari recalled. Saudi society, smug and protected by the West, offered little stimulus to such returning adventurers.

Meanwhile, the oil price declined in the 1980s while the value of the dollar, in which revenues were denominated, also fell. Saudi Arabia went from cornucopia to austerity. In 1990 foreign troops flooded into the kingdom. "The Gulf war was the big explosion," Mr Mas'ari said. Despite the expenditure of billions of dollars, the House of Sa'ud could not defend the realm. Disillusion became fashionable; dissent flowered.

Mr Mas'ari does not predict riots in the streets but "palace wars, perhaps a coup or an economic crash". He claims to prefer a slow process to give the Islamists time to build. "If they collapse quickly then the military role will be greater than we want to see," he said.

His Saudi Arabia would be purely Islamic, non-aligned, free of foreign forces although, he says, hospitable to foreigners; stern in its maintenance of shari'ah law punishments, strict to enforce female modesty through the veil but firmly upholding women's right to economic equality. Mr Mas'ari asserts that Shite Muslims and other minorities would be respected.

Some suspect that Mr Mas'ari may be a pawn in a royal intrigue, perhaps between Crown Prince Abdullah and the "Sudairi Seven" — King Fahd and his six full brothers. Funds for his movement, though mysterious, are evidently not a problem. And for all the indignation of Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, and John Major, Mr Mas'ari says "we have had barely any pressure from the British Government". Perhaps they are quietly hedging their bets.

Tehran: Forces Commander Criticizes U.S. Policy

LD2205124995 Tehran IRNA in English
1130 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, May 22, IRNA — Saudi Arabia's joint forces commander during the 1991 Persian Gulf war has criticised U.S. policy of 'joint containment' of Iran and Iraq, saying instead it should be a policy of "dual engagement."

Prince Khalid Bin-Sultan, son of the country's defense minister, said that security in the Middle East had to be based upon "political accommodation" with neighbors

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in the region and that no state should be excluded, nor should any be allowed to dominate others.

In an address to the Royal Institute of Internal Affairs in London last week unreported by the UK press, the retired general spoke of Saudi Arabia as being the "West's paramount ally," but claimed this did not mean it agreed with every aspect of British and U.S. policy.

One of the great lessons of the allied war against Iraq was that "no country, however powerful it may be, can rely for its defense on military means alone," he said, according to a copy of his speech obtained by IRNA.

The former military chief said Saudi Arabia shared UK and American 'reservations' about Iran and Iraq and would "never trust Saddam Husayn again." Riyadh would also like Tehran to "curb its hostile propaganda."

But both countries were large and important neighbors, and instead of Washington's policy of "dual containment," he proposed a policy of 'dual engagement' and perhaps in due course of 'dual rehabilitation' into the international community.

As well as increasing its armed strength, his recommendation was that a stable political environment should be sought in which the "interests of every state in the region are understood and addressed."

Extending his argument to the whole of the Middle East, the Saudi prince said there could be no real security for anyone and no real peace as long as one state retained weapons of mass destruction, referring specifically to Israel's nuclear arsenal.

He warned that the Zionist regime's refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and dismantle its weapons was bound to stimulate an arms race across the region to acquire a deterrent of their own.

Why should the Arab countries continue to live in the grim shadow of Israel's bomb? he asked, adding that the danger was that the Zionist regime, with U.S. support, will seek to impose a settlement on the Palestinians and other neighboring countries.

The former military chief suggested the majority of Arab regimes were ready for an "honorable peace" with Israel, which they were prepared to accept as even an important player but not the dominant player.

Political settlements addressing the interests of all parties were "absolutely necessary" he said, adding that influential countries, like Britain, can play a vital role by helping to put Western policies on the right track.

Yemen

President Salih Gives Unity Anniversary Speech

JN2105192195 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 May 95

[Speech by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on the fifth anniversary of Yemeni unity, in Sanaa on 21 May — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God be praised, and prayers and peace be upon the last of the prophets and messengers.

Free brother citizens, our proud people: A greeting to you wherever you are inside or outside the homeland. I extend to you my sincere congratulation on the fifth national day, on which the homeland was reunited and the Republic of Yemen was established. On 22 May, 1990, the republic's flag fluttered over all parts of the homeland as a result of the people's will and also as the fruit of the long struggle they waged and the great sacrifices they offered in order to attain that great strategic goal. This occasion has been received by our Yemeni people and the Arab nation with overwhelming joy since the historic moment in which the agreement was signed in the brave city of Aden on 30 November, 1989.

On this day five years ago, the homeland launched a new era of its militant struggle after eliminating division and reunited the one Yemeni family. Today's celebrations on this occasion are distinguished and hold deep meaning because of the serious challenges and conspiracies faced by the state of unity since its birth, because our people have scored a great victory through their desire for peace, and because they have resolutely confronted the conspiracy that the treasonous secessionists concocted against the people a long time ago in order to disrupt the homeland, to destroy its unity, and to turn the wheel of history backward by rebelling against unity, democracy, and the constitutional legitimacy and by igniting the war and secession.

God be praised, the people scored a victory and maintained their unity on 7 July, 1994, just as they scored victory and launched the 26 September and 14 October revolutions. They were so great in their sacrifices, their steadfastness, and their cohesion with their brave Armed Forces and security forces to confront the conspiracies, defeat the treasonous agents, formulate a new history of splendid victory, and renew the great values and principles of the eternal Yemeni revolution.

Brother citizens, all peoples and nations aspiring for a better life derive lessons from their struggle, history,

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and ordeals and turn them into a driving force toward the future through the triumph of unity baptized with the blood of the righteous martyrs of our people, our Armed Forces, and our security forces. A new era of stability has begun in the homeland under the banner of work and construction. In this era, there is no room for oneupmanship, bargains, intrigues, and corruption. Instead, its is aimed at releasing the people's energy and creativity so that every one can compete with others honorably and responsibly in political, democratic, economic, development, and social areas in order to achieve the best for the homeland and to overcome that heavy legacy, inherited from the imamite and colonialist eras, the transitional period, and the crisis and war.

Our major concern today is how to wage our current and future economic and development battle to improve the living conditions for our people and achieve prosperity for the homeland. We all know the heavy burdens of the secession and war, whose negative impact reflected on the citizens' living conditions and the national economy in general.

We are aware that the development battle is not easy, however, God willing, we are determined to earnestly continue the march for the sake of building and rehabilitation. Our objective is to achieve success in the economic, financial, and administrative reform efforts and to embody the principle of achieving what is better.

On this occasion, we call on the government to follow firm austerity measures to curb expenditures and increase revenues, as well as to prepare the five-year development plan as soon as possible to achieve comprehensive national development. The plan must be based on local resources and the convergence of official and popular efforts in the field of development. We also call on the government to define the principle of democracy in terms of planning and the fair distribution of projects and principles, as well as to invest the available resources, to pay attention to and develop agriculture, to facilitate the importation of agricultural equipment, and to build dams and water canals. We also call for developing the deprived areas and to expeditiously adopt executive measures to set up a free zone area and to develop its facilities.

We especially call on the government organizations and establishments to work with new spirit and mechanisms and to abandon old complexes, residues, and the remnants of the totalitarian regime. We also call for addressing the issues of the economy, development, and investment with openness, far away from stalemate, routine, and bureaucracy, as well as to overcome the negativity that appeared in the past and to provide all necessary facilities to investors in accordance with the laws.

Free citizens: It is the mission of all people, without exception, to build the homeland. We call on everybody to support the efforts aimed at achieving comprehensive reform and to build the Yemen of 22 May, based on justice, freedom, democracy, and respecting human rights. This is an occasion to reiterate our commitment to the freedom of the press and democratization from which we will not go back because this is the option that will safeguard unity.

The absence of democracy is worse than the difficulties and mistakes that might appear in democratic practices. Thus, we call on all parties, political organizations, and press to rise above trivialities and secondary differences, to entrench national unity, and to enrich democracy and political pluralism with responsible national practices, far away from loyalty to foreigners, oneupmanship, and political intrigues that harm the homeland's interests.

We urge the government and House of Representatives to swiftly issue and apply the laws that will entrench the bases of the modern Yemeni state, particularly the local administration law, on the basis of financial and administrative decentralization, as well as to give full powers to the local administration departments in the republic's governorates, in light of the integration and cooperation with the central government departments. The objective is to meet the requirements of building and to reiterate the principle of justice, democracy, and freedom.

We also reiterate the need to activate the role of the auditing and accountancy departments and control the legislative authority to safeguard public funds and protect them from squandering and tampering and to refer all financial and administrative violations, in any government department, to the general prosecution and judicial departments.

Brother citizens: The Republic of Yemen has reaffirmed its preference for dialogue and political solutions to all issues and problems that undermine the cordial atmosphere between brothers, and its rejection of force and violence. We will continue to adhere to this course, supporting all efforts aimed at reinforcing security, stability, and peace in the region and the world. Proceeding from this, the Republic of Yemen has sought to strengthen its relations with its brothers and friends on the basis of mutual respect, cooperation, and achieving common interests and benefits.

On this occasion, we express satisfaction with what was achieved between our country and sisterly Saudi Arabia. The memo of understanding represents an important

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beginning for subsequent steps in terms of honest fraternal dialogue between the two neighborly countries, which are linked by the doctrine, fraternal ties, and common destiny.

As for joint Arab action, the Republic of Yemen calls on all brothers to overcome differences and turn over that black page in the march of inter-Arab relations, and to activate the role of the Arab League, the house of all Arabs, so that it will carry out its duties in the service of Arab solidarity and the nation's causes, the foremost of which is the restoration of legitimate Arab rights in Palestine, Syria, and Lebanon under just and comprehensive peace in the region. Based on this, we emphasize our country's commitment to support our brothers and back the just Arab causes.

Brother citizens: While celebrating this important national occasion, we remember with faithfulness and appreciation the generous sacrifices offered by the heroic fighters, the members of the Armed Forces and the security forces, who protect the homeland's security, sovereignty, and stability and who are the safety of the revolution, unity, democracy, and constitutional legitimacy.

After the modernization of the Armed Forces and the security forces and after completing the merger of their [northern and southern] ranks on nationalist and scientific bases, they are now more able than ever before to shoulder their responsibilities in defending unity and the homeland's sovereignty and independence. We will continue to give all possible care to the Armed Forces and the security forces in order to bolster their ability and improve their conditions in appreciation of the generous sacrifices they have offered and will offer for the sake of the homeland, revolution, and unity.

At this moment, we do not want to forget those righteous martyrs and the strugglers who illuminated the path of the revolution, freedom, independence, and unity with their generous sacrifices and heroic struggle. They have set up the new Yemen in which all live in peace.

We must also strongly hail every mother who lost her son, every child who lost his father, every father who lost son, every wife who lost her husband, and every brother who lost his brother during that great legend — the legend of defending unity and constitutional legitimacy, which was crowned with the great victory over the treacherous secessionists and those allied with them. We hail them all and we are grateful to them, and we pledge that we will continue along the same path and with the same principles for which the martyrs made their sacrifices.

We pray to almighty God to provide us with success and to have mercy on the souls of our righteous martyrs and make paradise their final abode. God is all hearing and he is ready to answer. Peace and God's blessings be upon you.

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Government Decrees Announce Cabinet Changes

Interior Minister Relieved of Post

JN2205182395 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 May 95

[Republican Decree No. 152 dated 22 May — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

The Republic of Iraq, Presidential Decree No. 152:

Based on the provisions of Paragraph D of Article 58 of the Constitution, we have decreed the following: Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan shall be relieved of his post. Competent ministers shall implement this decree.

Written in Baghdad on 22 Dhu al-Hijjah 1415 Hegira, corresponding to 22 May.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

New Interior Minister Appointed

JN2205183995 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 May 95

[Republican Decree No. 153 dated 22 May — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

The Republic of Iraq, Republican Decree No. 153:

Based on the provisions of Paragraph D of Article 58 of the Constitution, we have decreed the following: Muhammad Zimam 'Abd-al-Razzaq shall be appointed minister of interior. Competent ministers shall implement this decree.

Written in Baghdad on 22 Dhu al-Hijjah 1415 Hegira, corresponding to 22 May.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

Presidential Adviser Named

JN2205185495 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 May 95

[Republican Decree No. 35 dated 22 May — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Republic of Iraq, Republican Decree No. 35 dated 22 Dhu al-Hijjah 1415 Hegira, corresponding to 22 May: Based on the provisions of Paragraph C of Article 57 of the Constitution, we have decreed the following:

1. Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan shall be appointed adviser to the president of the republic. He shall receive the salary and allowances of a minister, and shall be allowed to carry a minister's insignia.

2. This decree shall be implemented as of the date of its issuance.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

Saddam Chairs Cabinet Session, Discusses Economy

JN2205164095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1346 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 22 May (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has said: Successful economic management must be led by a spirit of good utilization. This is like good house management, which requires saving here or there and dealing with certain things urgently and with others on a delayed basis. All this is to maintain a good balance between priorities, depending on the circumstances.

His excellency added: But if some state officials develop the feeling that it is easy to spend a million today because they spent a billion in the past, then this would be mismanagement itself. This is because if such a feeling prevails, a million here and a million there will accumulate to form hundreds of millions. Thus, mismanagement would prevail.

In remarks while presiding over the 20th session of the Council of Ministers, his excellency the president said: Improving productivity or increasing production by even 0.25 percent must never be viewed as insignificant. Such achievements, no matter how tiny, will accumulate, and will turn into a large achievement. This does not only mean a chance to improve performance, but also a chance to achieve tangible economic growth. If the concerned ministers and their aides exchange views, taking advantage of our peculiarly rich Iraqi experience, high sense of responsibility, relentless determination, and the honor of being affiliated with the generation of the blockade, then hundreds of solutions and unconventional methods and alternatives will open up.

The Council of Ministers discussed the topics listed on its agenda, including proposals to organize financial investment in the socialist and the private sectors, as well as some organizational matters concerning the Ministries of Irrigation and Agriculture. The Council took the appropriate decisions and measures.

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National Assembly Ratifies Oil Deal With Russia

JN2205163495 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1350 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 22 May (INA) — The National Assembly has ratified a cooperation agreement on implementing oil and gas projects between Iraq and Russia. The agreement was signed in Baghdad on 25 April.

In a session held under Deputy Speaker Ghanim 'Aziz Khadduri today, the assembly hosted Oil Minister Safa' Hadi Jawad, who responded to deputies' queries and explained the technical and legal dimensions of the agreement and the main projects it includes.

The oil minister stressed the importance of the agreement both economically and technically. He underscored the agreement's role in bolstering cooperation between Iraqi and Russian oil establishments.

The assembly discussed a special report on the Russian fuel and energy minister's visit last April. The visit resulted in the signing of the aforementioned cooperation agreement and the technical minutes which define the mechanism of implementing the agreement and set the course of oil relations between the two friendly countries.

Minister Outlines Production Plans

JN2305103595 Baghdad INA in English
0825 GMT 23 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, 22 May (INA) — Oil Minister Dr. Safa' Hadi Jawad has said that Iraq is planning to produce six million barrels of oil per day to compensate the country because of the cessation of its oil exports arising from the oppressive embargo.

During a session on Monday of the National Assembly (parliament), Dr. Jawad added that the Oil Ministry had contacted a number of foreign companies to prepare the fields for reaching the required production capacity, and now it is negotiating other foreign firms to develop and increase the oil production.

U.S. 'Double Standards,' Anti-Arab Stands Assailed

JN2205101695 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0823 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 22 May (INA) — The U.S. Administration is nowadays stepping up its unscrupulous anti-Iraq campaign to distract attention from its crimes against world peoples.

It has become clear that this administration has mobilized all U.S. and Zionist media trumpets to level unsubstantiated accusations against mujahid and militant Iraq, which advocates peaceful coexistence and opposes the colonialist policies based on theft.

This administration revealed its anti-Iraq sentiments when it mobilized Arab and international support for its position after militant Iraq, thanks to the shrewdness of its leadership, managed to thwart the U.S. plan to plunder the region's resources and control oil wells to the exclusion of others.

Everybody is now well aware of the U.S. Administration's recent malicious plotting to ensure the passage of a resolution authorizing the export of a limited amount of Iraqi oil to finance food and medicine purchases. This administration seeks to lay the groundwork for plundering Iraqi oil resources. It wants to deny others access to these resources so that it may make economic gains to the exclusion of others.

Despite this insolent and openly aggressive conduct, the U.S. Administration has employed double standards in its handling of the issues involving the Arabs and the Zionist entity. Otherwise, how are we to explain its use of the veto to block efforts to uphold an Arab right? Can this administration say that its veto has helped promote the interests of this or that Arab country? Can it argue that it is harboring enmity toward Iraq to protect Kuwait? The answers to these questions are certainly clear. The U.S. Administration covets the oil resources of Kuwait and the entire region as well. As for other issues, it cannot care less. It is maintaining its hostility toward Iraq in this illegal and spurious manner in order to plunder the huge Iraqi oil resources and prevent other countries from having access to these resources.

The Arab nation is required now more than ever to shun petty differences, promote its solidarity and coordination, and confront this administration, which is working to foster its weakness, backwardness, and disunity, and render the Zionist entity the only power controlling its destiny, particularly since the Arab rulers have had a taste of the new U.S. positions. They must have realized by now that Washington has lost its credibility, shame, and sense of fairness with regard to the issues of Iraq, Palestine, the DPRK, Libya, Bosnia, Panama, etcetera. These rulers are also well aware that the use of the veto at the UN Security Council over Jerusalem best epitomizes Washington's use of double standards and its anti-Arab stands.

Saudi Bid To 'Bribe' Chirac Government Condemned

JN2205093595 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0640 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 22 May (INA) — The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has condemned the Saudi

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regime's efforts to bribe the new French administration of Jacques Chirac in exchange for a promise that France will not support Iraq's endeavors to get the sanctions lifted.

The paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds: During his latest visit to Paris, Sa'ud al-Faysal, representative of the Fahd regime, pursued the familiar Saudi course of bribery and financial temptation. It is to be recalled that Sa'ud al-Faysal's visit to Paris coincided with a similar visit by Zionist Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

The paper goes on to say: Historical facts and current realities confirm that France under the Gaulists will be too great to succumb to bribery, and that it will deem the promotion of its interests more important than the appeasement of a regime that is no longer in control of its country's strategic resources and wealth.

The paper concludes by saying: Based on the experience gained over the past five years, France must have realized that the Saudi rulers have actually become hostage to the U.S. Administration, which was not content with the political domination of the country and the monopoly over its oil resources. Washington has backed this with a permanent military presence there in order to promote its monopolies to the exclusion of others, even within the Western coalition itself.

Industry Minister Receives Polish Deputy Minister

JN1805193295 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 26 Apr 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals and supervisor of the Military Industrialization Organization, yesterday met Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Jerzy Kaminski and the members of his delegation.

The minister explained the negative effects of the continuation of the unfair blockade which has been imposed on our steadfast country, affirming that Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations under the UN Security Council resolutions.

The minister expressed Iraq's desire to develop its relations with Poland and called for strengthening these relations in the industrial and economic fields. He affirmed that Iraq is linked to Poland by old strategic ties.

The minister also affirmed Iraq's desire to revive economic relations with Poland on the bases of mutual respect and understanding and in a manner which guarantees the mutual rights of both friendly peoples.

The Polish deputy foreign minister expressed his country's desire to develop its relations with Iraq, affirming Poland's endeavors to lift the unfair blockade which has been imposed on our steadfast country.

The discussions during this meeting also included a review of the industrial relations between Iraq and Poland and the adequate means of bolstering them.

The meeting was attended by the senior under secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals and the Polish ambassador in Baghdad.

Paper Reports Looting, Provocation by Talabani Men

JN1805192995 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 25 Apr 95 pp 1, 6

[FBIS Translated Text] Members of agent Jalal Talabani's gang continue to loot and plunder innocent citizens in Irbil. This is in addition to the provocations against the citizens by these midgets, who have exploited the absence of the central authority and the law to profiteer and work for their mean aims, as directed by their U.S. and Zionist masters, in order to destroy the Kurdish people and spread corruption within their society. These facts have been confirmed by eyewitnesses coming from that region and the agent radios themselves. Mas'ud Barzani's radio announced on 18 April that agent Jalal's gang assaulted wealthy citizens and held them to ransom although they did not commit any crime.

Several days ago, Jalal's gang kidnapped the citizen Ahmad Ibrahim from Irbil and released him three days later after receiving 50,000 dinars. They also kidnapped the citizen Fariq Qadir and then released him after receiving 20,000 dinars. The same radio said that agent Jalal's gang recently molested women in Sayyid Sadiq and other Halabjah villages in al-Sulaymaniyah on the pretext of supporting agent Mas'ud. On 10 April, armed followers of agent Jalal stormed the house of Sadr al-Din Rahman in Kawran quarter of Irbil and stole its contents. On 13 April, another group of Jalal's followers stole a Brazilian-made car belonging to Bakr Haji Ibrahim of al-Shuhada' quarter of Irbil.

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Peres Announces Suspension of Land Expropriations

TA2205142395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The government has decided to instruct the finance minister to suspend the implementation of the decision on land expropriations in Jerusalem and immediately begin setting up a ministerial committee headed by the prime minister to examine the whole issue of land expropriations.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres made this announcement in a Knesset plenum, and in response HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] withdrew its motion of no confidence in the government. At this time, the Knesset plenum continues to discuss the no-confidence motion tabled by the Arab Democratic Party.

Likud faction Chairman Moshe Qatzav harshly criticized the government, saying that the government has been ceding the country's vital interests. It is a disgrace that the government is trying to blame the opposition for the suspension of the implementation of the decision on expropriations. The opposition is not the one making the decisions, Qatzav said. He added that the government allows Yasir 'Arafat to influence what happens in the Israeli Knesset. No other government has driven peace farther away than this one, Qatzav added.

Opposition Drops No-Confidence Motion

NC2205143595 Paris AFP in English 1412 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, May 22 (AFP) — Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin suspended Monday [22 May] the expropriation of Arab land in east Jerusalem to block a no-confidence vote in parliament which threatened to bring his government down.

"It has been decided that all the confiscation measures will be suspended while a ministerial committee is set up to look into the question," Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am announced.

The decision to suspend the seizure of 53 hectares (131 acres) of mainly Arab land was taken unanimously at a cabinet meeting in the parliament or Knesset building.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin called the emergency meeting after he failed to persuade the Hadash communist party and Arab Democratic Party to scrap the no-confidence motion.

The parties, which have five MPs, pressed the motion to force the government to climb down over the confiscations which provoked uproar in the Arab world.

After the decision, the parties, which normally vote with the government although they are not members of the coalition, withdrew the no-confidence motion.

Rabin would chair the committee to re-examine the confiscation, Justice Minister David Liba'i said.

PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani was less than impressed with the decision.

"I wish the Israeli order was to cancel the confiscation all together," he told AFP.

Arab Party Questions Wording of Decision

TA2205153095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Knesset continues to deliberate on the motion of no confidence submitted by the Arab Democratic Party [ADP] concerning land expropriations in Jerusalem. At the outset of the debate, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres announced the government's decision to hold back [le'akev] the expropriation of land and to set up a ministerial committee headed by the prime minister to examine the whole issue of land expropriations.

In response, HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] withdrew the no-confidence motion it submitted on the issue. The ADP does not agree with the wording of the government's decision, and demands that the government specifically state that the expropriations will be called off.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the ministerial committee will be made up of the prime minister and the ministers of foreign affairs, finance, justice, construction and housing, and police as well as a representative of Meretz.

The government's decision was made this afternoon in a special session in the Knesset building, during which the prime minister criticized the Likud for linking up with HADASH and forcing the government to pass a decision against its better judgment. Minister Yosi Sarid harshly criticized the prime minister, saying the land expropriation affair had been an unfortunate decision made by simpletons who could not see beyond their nose.

Yasir 'Arafat has welcomed the government's decision to hold back the expropriation of land.

Knesset Member Ehud Olmert, the mayor of Jerusalem, this afternoon informed the leaders of the Likud that he would not support the motion of no confidence in the government concerning land expropriation. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Olmert held a

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very strident talk in the Knesset cafeteria with Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu, and told him that even if the Likud faction decides to impose party discipline on its members he would disobey it and he would even be prepared to pay for his deed by resigning his Knesset seat.

Rabin Explains Decision at News Conference

TA2205163095 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 May 95

[News conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the Labor faction's room in the Knesset in Jerusalem; broadcast in progress — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] ....on the one hand, the continuation of the peace process on the basis of the government's policy. With regard to Jerusalem, our position is clear: Jerusalem is united under Israel's sovereignty; the freedom of worship, the freedom of access to the holy places by members of other faiths; and the search for a path to reduce the gap between the Arab and Jewish populations in Jerusalem.

In no agreement that we signed as a government did we undertake restricting the development of Jerusalem for Jews and Arabs alike for the sake of Jerusalem. Therefore, when the need arose for construction, when we needed to transfer the Jerusalem District police headquarters from the center of Jerusalem to a suitable location, and to expand Ramot — into a neighborhood for ultra-Orthodox Jews incidentally — we did not hesitate to adopt the method of expropriation, too.

When I say expropriation, according to Israel's law this means a declaration of the intent to expropriate first, in order to allow those concerned the option of filing suits both on the administrative and legal levels. Expropriation points to the intention to build a large number of housing units in Ramot indeed, to build the required quarters for the police, and to build 400 housing units in the southern Jerusalem area for Arab residents of Jerusalem. The government's decision on this is well-known.

We were prepared to face up to the entire world, to protests emanating from the Arab world and the world at large. We were prepared to face up to this in the UN Security Council, too, with the help of our friend, the United States.

The last thing I expected was that the Likud and the other opposition parties would hamper an expropriation aimed at expanding construction in Jerusalem. Ask me if I tried to reach a dialogue, if I tried to prevent the odd phenomenon of the Likud, the NRP [National Religious Party], Tzomet, Moledet, SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], and Agudat Yisra'el joining a no-confidence motion by HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] and the Arab Democratic Party [ADP], in the face of the desire to expropriate land in order to expand construction in Jerusalem. Could I have conceived of this, after we surmounted the hurdles in the Security Council and the protests in the Arab world and other places?

I will admit that it was inconceivable to me that the Likud would prefer the toppling of the government to construction in Jerusalem. Today I personally called Tzomet's leader, Refa'el Eytan, Agudat Yisra'el's Avraham Shapira, and SHAS' Arye Der'i. I appealed to them and did not receive replies until 10 minutes past four o'clock this afternoon. I cannot remember what time it was when I received a letter signed by Likud leader Netanyahu. Let me read it out loud:

To Mr. Yitzhaq Rabin, the Prime Minister,

Good day to you, Yitzhaq. I want to bring to your attention the decision by the heads of the opposition parties. The heads of the opposition parties convened a meeting today and decided that they would not support the no-confidence motions of HADASH and the ADP if the prime minister declares before the vote that the government would abide by, first, its decision on the expropriation of the 500 dunams in Jerusalem and the continuation of development there. Second, the government will continue to implement expropriations for development needs in Jerusalem. As is well-known, the government decided not to expropriate for housing needs. We did not limit ourselves beyond this point of housing. Third, the government will support the draft resolutions on securing the status of Jerusalem and the closure of Orient House and all PLO institutions in Jerusalem. Incidentally, I think that, on the basis of the agreement, we achieved the closure of almost all PLO institutions in Jerusalem — Orient House still remains a problem — without resorting to declarations but through a dialogue, and I believe this is preferable.

In other words, the Likud wanted to dictate decisions which run counter to our positions, including on draft resolutions which point to no confidence in us insofar as our commitment to the unity of Jerusalem is concerned. They did not propose such draft resolutions when they were in power. In fact, the question which I, the government, were facing, was.... [relay interrupted due to a technical problem between IDF radio and the Knesset studio]

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Ministers, Officials React to Suspension Decision

Olmert Assails 'Government of Wimps'

TA2205163895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Knesset plenum has defeated the motion of no confidence in the government submitted by the Arab Democratic Party over the land expropriations in Jerusalem.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Knesset Members 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah and Talib al-Sani' were the only ones who supported the no-confidence motion.

They were joined by As'ad As'ad of the Likud, who said he had mistakenly pushed the wrong button.

Some 58 members of the coalition voted against the motion and 43 members of the opposition factions abstained. The opposition announced that their abstention was a vote of protest over the government's capitulation to 'Arafat, and that it would submit motions of no confidence in the government over the concessions it has made in Jerusalem. The motions will be discussed on 29 May. [passage omitted]

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert harshly criticized the government. Interviewed by Qol Yisra'el, he said: This is a government of wimps, a government devoid of self-esteem and principles, a bunch of cowards. Olmert said that Rabin will now wage a campaign of incitement against the Likud, but nothing will change the fact that Yitzhaq Rabin today ended his rule. [passage omitted]

Netanyahu Expresses 'Contempt'

TA2205164195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 22 May 95

[Report by Jack Katzenell — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Katzenell] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu expressed contempt for the government's decision on the expropriation issue. He accused it of surrendering to the demands of Yasir 'Arafat.

[Netanyahu] The government has shown once again that it cannot withstand any PLO pressure. Instead of accepting our offer to work together to maintain the unity and continued growth of united Jerusalem, the government chose instead to succumb to PLO pressures and to continue the march of the concessions. That's unfortunate, because what the people of Israel have a right to demand, and what Jerusalem has a right to expect, is a government that will stand on its unity and on Israeli sovereignty. This government has shown that it is incapable of doing both.

Likud MK 'Sharply Criticizes' Netanyahu

TA2305092695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 23 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Likud Knesset Member David Levi sharply criticizes Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu's performance in the Knesset yesterday. Mr. Levi told Qol Yisra'el that yesterday the Likud lost its sense of national responsibility and received a serious blow to its credibility. Yesterday's move was ill-conceived from beginning to end, and even if the Likud had succeeded in toppling the government it would not have been able to form a new one. MK Levi says that, regretfully, he was abroad at the time and that had he been here he would have done everything possible to change the Likud's behavior and make it show national unity and support the government in everything relating to strengthening Jerusalem.

Arab MK Calls Move 'Trickery'

NC2305064395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 23 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 23 May (MENA) — 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawishah, leader of the Arab Democratic Party [ADP] and member of the Israeli Knesset, described the Israeli Government's decision to suspend the expropriation of Arab lands in Jerusalem as a tactical and not a strategic measure. He said that it is a form of trickery and deception that the Israeli Government is used to doing. He described yesterday's decision of Hadash, the Israeli Communist Party, to withdraw its proposal for a vote of confidence in the government as a shameful one.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Darawishah said that the Israeli Government resorted to this trick to face the Arab, international, and Palestinian reaction and his party's proposal to the Knesset to withdraw confidence in it. He added that it thus suspended the decision for a period of time and formed a committee to follow up on the issue and implement it at the proper time. He stressed that the ADP will not rescind its proposal to withdraw confidence from the government.

He added that the Israeli Government should have canceled the decision and implemented the Oslo agreement, especially the second part on the redeployment of its forces in the West Bank and the holding of free elections. He reiterated that Israel's suspension of the expropriation decision is only meant to throw dust in the eyes.

Darawishah also stressed that Israel will reimpose its decision to expropriate the Jerusalem lands. He said: We got used to these Israeli actions when lands were

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seized in Nazareth and Galilee in 1948. It issues an expropriation decision and if there is opposition, it retreats until the storm abates, after which it implements its decision on the basis that it has already been made.

Darawishah said he is convinced that Israel will not withdraw from the West Bank, Jerusalem, or the Golan until elections are held next year and that it will continue its procrastination and adhere to the notion that a united Jerusalem is Israel's eternal capital.

Minister Sees 'Death Blow' to Government

TA2305093795 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 May 95 p 1

[Report by Amir Neumann and Daniyel Ben-Simon]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cabinet ministers said last night that the decision to suspend the Jerusalem land expropriations following pressure by the Arab parties and the Arab world has seriously damaged the stability of the coalition and the government and that the damage is even greater in view of the approaching election campaign. One minister even said off the record that the decision meant a death blow to the government.

At the same time, reservations about and sharp criticism of the stand taken by Binyamin Netanyahu and other Likud leaders were voiced yesterday in the Likud. Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert said he would have violated party discipline had it been imposed at yesterday's Knesset vote, while Knesset Member Mikha'el Eytan said that although the government came out defeated in the affair, the Likud was also harmed by the position it presented. [passage omitted]

[A report by Amir Oren and ITIM on page 3 of the same newspaper adds that speaking in the wake of the decision to freeze the Jerusalem land expropriation, "Justice Minister David Liba'i said the difficulties in which the government found itself yesterday proved again that the government's decisionmaking processes are flawed.

["Liba'i, who abstained when the cabinet voted on the land expropriation, said the prime minister and the construction and housing minister alone decided on the expropriation, without including or consulting the other ministers and without giving thought to the consequences of such an act. The justice minister added that yesterday's cabinet decision to establish a ministerial committee to review the issue of confiscations is a serious decision and not a tactical one."]

Minister Mourns Likud 'Blackmail'

TA2205155995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 22 May 95

[Interview with Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer by Hayim Hecht and political correspondent Shlomo Raz; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hecht] Do you wholeheartedly support the government's decision to freeze land expropriations?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I accept it with a grieving heart because I have no other choice. This is a black day for me. I had to go along with the decision, I simply had no other choice. The last thing I would have dreamed of is that the Likud, a leading party where national issues are concerned, would lend a hand to putting the lid on Jewish construction in Jerusalem. The last thing anybody would have dreamed of is that the Likud would link forces with the Arab parties to prevent continued construction in Jerusalem.

[Hecht] Did your prime minister, Yitzhaq Rabin, give in?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Let me tell you: What other choice did he actually have? The political game has certain logical rules. Would anybody have dreamed that the Likud, in the peak of its glory, being the carrier of the banner of Jerusalem's unity and construction in Jerusalem, would favor a decision conducive to stopping land expropriations and preventing continued construction in Jerusalem? Does anybody at all realize the meaning of this?

Not to mention the other things the Likud did. The Likud actually lent a hand in continuing the blackmail against us.

[Raz] Sir, the fact that the government's blocking majority is based on the Arab parties, HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] and the Arab Democratic Party [ADP] are what forced you to give in. Why are you blaming the Likud? The very composition of the coalition led to this situation.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Let us not play games. Nobody conceived of such a situation, there has never been such a precedent. I do not recall any other instance in which the Likud linked forces with HADASH and the ADP against Labor on the question of Jerusalem. Maybe it could have happened on any other issue, but not on this one.

[Hecht] Sir, you are in charge of construction plans in Jerusalem. Does this decision mean that those plans are frozen?

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[Ben-Eli'ezer] Only two plans have been frozen: The first is the 535 dunams in Ramot; Hill 717 near Malha, where 400 housing units were slated to be built for Arabs; Jerusalem Police headquarters; and the lock-up facility, period. [sentence as heard] All other construction in Jerusalem will continue as planned. We undertook to build thousands of housing units and we will continue to build, not necessarily on Arab land and not through the expropriation of land. Thank God, we have enough plans and we will continue to build. I am sorry and sad that the decision the Likud abetted today by stooping to the lowest possible baseness actually forced us to close options which I thought still existed.

[Hecht] Sir, I thank you very much.

Commentary Calls Decision Victory for Arabs

TA2305103695 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 May 95 pp 1, 2

[Commentary by Ron Miberg: "The Arab Independence Day"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some two weeks belatedly, Israeli Arabs yesterday celebrated their first Independence Day as equal citizens in their country. Only when the dust settles on yesterday's events in the next few days will the Israeli right wing realize what a rare and irreversible achievement it has handed to the two Arab parties, which it delights in describing as "Yasir 'Arafat's yes men in the Israeli Knesset."

Acting under the compulsion of its irascible and uncompromising position, the right wing forced Yitzhaq Rabin to concede the first significant political achievement to 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, Hashim Mahamid, and their other colleagues in the Knesset. Mahamid yesterday stood close behind Rabin's back in the Knesset when he promised that his party will closely monitor the implementation of the decision to freeze the land expropriations in Jerusalem. It was difficult to see whether the hair at the back of Rabin's neck stood on end or not. When Mahamid extended his hand, however, Rabin shook it.

Israeli Arabs have waited for this moment for 47 years. The moment in which they will cease serving as a voiceless rubber stamp for a centrist government with leftist leaning just in order to block a right-wing government — a moment in which, following years of sharp insults, the total disregard of their demands and positions, and a feeling of degradation and deprecation on the part of their constituency, the Arab parties have become an element that can tip the balance and therefore cannot be ignored. Yesterday, Israeli Arabs joined the democratic process not only in words, but in fact. Their demand caused the Israeli Government to withdraw from a decision of vital importance to Jewish consensus: Jerusalem. A thousand ingenious ministerial committees will be unable to evade Jerusalem's new kosher supervisors: Darawshah and Mahamid. Yesterday Rabin gave his Arab supporters a grenade with its safety pin removed. If he wants to remain in power until the next elections, he has exactly four seconds to obey their command.

Just as this was a great day for Israeli Arabs, so was it an embarrassing day for Meretz. Instead of this schizophrenic Zionist party itself forcing Rabin to withdraw from the expropriations decision — which had threatened to foil the peace process — Meretz dragged along behind him and enviously watched the Arabs doing its job for it.

It was also an extremely embarrassing day for the Likud. Instead of rising above narrow partisan considerations and supporting Rabin's bid to strengthen Israel's eternal capital with an unequivocal statement of support, the Likud presented a list of future demands and forced Rabin to succumb to the demands of the Arab Knesset members and their Palestinian colleagues. Instead of serving the cause in which it believes, the Likud preferred to allow the Arabs to decide the matter.

Nothing, however — not Yosi Sarid's despondency nor Moshe Qatzav's scoffing — could detract from the significance of this historic moment for Israeli Arabs. Yesterday they astutely recognized the moment, fraught with future significance, and lost no time to seize it. When left with no other options, Yitzhaq Rabin had to admit he depends on the votes of the Arab MK's. Now he finds himself sitting opposite the Palestinians' promised land and depending on the Arabs' goodwill for his very survival.

MK Criticizes Rabin, Says Firm Arab Stand Needed

JN2205130895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0920 GMT 22 May 95

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, Knesset member and head of the Arab Democratic Party, by correspondent 'Arif Salim; place and date not given; from the "Within the Homeland" feature — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Salim] 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, Knesset member and head of the Arab Democratic Party, welcome to the Voice of Palestine.

[Darawshah] I welcome you, too, and greetings to you and to all those working in the Voice of Palestine.

[Salim] Thank you. Mr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab, many are wagering that, within the margin of democracy you are allowed in Israel, you will carry out a move concerning

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the most important step that threatens the peace process; the Israeli confiscation of land in Jerusalem and the U.S. veto against the international draft resolution on the confiscation decision. Mr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab, what are your plans and programs to confront what is taking place?

[Darawshah] What recently took place causes anxiety, anger, and bitterness, particularly that the Israeli Government carries out steps which I believe are not only hostile but stupid steps which endanger stability in the region, and threaten to undermine the peace process, not to mention that they also threaten the safety of the Israeli Government itself. As an indivisible part of the Palestinian people and as a peace force in Israel, too, we cannot condone the confiscation that took place in Arab Jerusalem and the West Bank, and the policy of undermining the peace process adopted by Yitzhaq Rabin. That is why we have submitted a no-confidence motion against the Israeli Government under Rabin. This motion will be discussed today against the backdrop of the recent confiscations in Arab Jerusalem.

A meeting is expected to be held with Prime Minister Rabin in the next few hours before the session that will discuss the no-confidence motion against the government. Rabin wants to ask us to withdraw the no-confidence motion. However, we have two basic conditions for this. The first is an announcement that the recent confiscations in Bayt Hanina and Bayt Safafa are cancelled and that he publicly states he will refrain from any other confiscation measures in the West Bank, particularly in Arab Jerusalem. Second, he should pledge to us that he will reach an agreement to implement the second part of the Oslo agreement before 1 July as he had pledged during his meeting with President Yasir 'Arafat.

If he promises to do so, then we can think of withdrawing the no-confidence motion. But, if he continues to be obstinate and pursues the Israeli policy that is hostile to the Palestinian people and peace, we will do our best today to topple Rabin's government, and he, himself, will be responsible for toppling his government. [passage omitted]

If Rabin pursues his obstinacy, we will have no other choice but to topple him. As I said, in this case, let him go to hell, he and his government. [passage omitted]

[Salim] Mr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab, then you support the linkage of the Arab-Israeli normalization process to progress in the peace process?

[Darawshah] Without this, no practical steps on the road to attaining just peace could be taken. This is because the Arabs' panting after Israel, as has happened over the past year, makes Israel scorn the entire Arab world and leads Rabin to believe he can do what he wants since there is no Arab public opinion, and there is no real, nationalist, sincere, and firm Arab stand to deter him from pursuing his misguided course and conceit. The Arab countries are, therefore, asked to stop panting after Israel and to adopt a national stand. I hope this will take place at the mini-summit. I wish this to be a full summit in which all Arab countries would participate and where a firm and explicit stand would be adopted on this Israeli policy which smacks of conceit and arrogance of power.

[Salim] Mr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab, you act as a pressure tool on the Israeli Government to stop the confiscations and activate the peace process. But, there are steps that should be taken on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels. In your opinion, what form should these steps take on these levels to complement what you are doing?

[Darawshah] If I were in brother Yasir's 'Arafat's place—I tell him this in a brotherly manner—I would refuse to meet with Shim'on Peres today, on this day when the Arab blocs submit no-confidence motions against the backdrop of the confiscation of the land in Jerusalem. I would adopt a firm stand at the Arab summit against Israel. If the Palestinians do not adopt a firm stand, the Arab countries will not adopt a firm stand. [passage omitted]

Beilin Calls al-Husayni Intifadah Warning 'Unbecoming'

TA2105114795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Faysal al-Husayni threatens a comprehensive intifadah in the territories and the Arab world if the land seizures in East Jerusalem are not rescinded.

[Begin recording] [al-Husayni] It will not only happen in East Jerusalem; it could take place in all the occupied territories, as well as the Arab world.

[Correspondent in territories Yoni Ben-Menahem] Do you think that will happen?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, we the Palestinians are preventing it from happening, but the moment the Palestinian issue is taken away from us, other forces will enter the fold, not only in Palestine, but in the entire Arab world, and could change the entire Arab world scene.

[Ben-Menahem] Are you saying that if Israel does not repeal its latest decision, there will be an intifadah.

[Al-Husayni] I think so, there will be intifadah, and I say that it will take place not only in Jerusalem or the

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occupied territories, but in the entire Middle East. [end recording]

Knesset Member [MK] 'Uzi Landau, head of the Likud Bureau, said that al-Husayni's threats are due to the Israeli Government's weakness. [passage omitted]

Moledet MK Rehav'am Ze'evi demands that legal action be taken against al-Husayni. [passage omitted]

Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin expresses regret at al-Husayni's remarks:

[Begin Beilin recording] I do not think either side should threaten the other with violence, definitely not al-Husayni, who is one of those leading this historic attempt to reach understanding between the two nations. There is nothing easier than to threaten an intifadah, reprisal attacks, or an iron fist. I think we have gone beyond that. It is unbecoming for al-Husayni to express himself that way. I will not be dragged into saying something in that vein. I can merely say that such remarks do not contribute to the peace process, quite the contrary. [end recording]

U.S. Veto Called More Damaging Than Expropriations

TA2105153195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The PLO, Iraq, and a number of other Arab states are looking into the possibility of convening the UN General Assembly to call on Israel to drop plans to confiscate Arab-owned land in Jerusalem.

Israel's UN Ambassador Gad Ya'aqobi told our reporter that the initiative is very worrying and that he expects a majority to support the Arab proposal. He noted that the United States has no veto power in the General Assembly.

A final decision on the matter will be made at Saturday's Arab summit meeting in Morocco.

Sources in the Foreign Ministry claim the U.S. veto in the United Nations against condemnation of Israel over the land seizures did more political damage than did the expropriations themselves. The vote, said the sources, undermined the U.S. role as honest broker. Diplomatic reporter Shlomo Raz said the statements were made at a meeting today of senior officials in the Foreign Ministry.

A message from UN Ambassador Gad Ya'aqobi noted that most of the Arab and Muslim nations said the U.S. had crossed the red line in employing its veto right.

Foreign Ministry Denies Reports

TA2205083195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Eytan Bentzur, the assistant director general of the Foreign Ministry, denied reports that senior Foreign Ministry staffers had said that the U.S. veto at the Security Council over the land expropriations in Jerusalem has caused more damage than the expropriations themselves. Bentzur told our correspondent Jack Katzenell that he called U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk and thanked him for the U.S. veto.

U.S. Pressuring Country To Sign New Nuclear Treaty

TA2105120995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 May 95 p A1

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The U.S. Administration has delivered a stern message to Israel affirming its intention to pressure Israel into signing a new international treaty halting the production of fissionable material such as plutonium and enriched uranium for nuclear weapons.

The new treaty is now in the preliminary stages of discussion and will not be implemented for several years. Nevertheless, the Americans are demanding to begin bilateral discussions on the issue with Israel.

U.S. officials recently clarified that Israel "will not be able to oppose" the proposed wording of the new treaty the same way it has refused to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Last week, the U.S. position was brought to the attention of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri, who heads the Israeli steering committee to the multilateral arms control talks.

Contacts with the administration on the nuclear issue will continue over the next few weeks. Gid'on Frank, the director general of the Israel Atomic Agency Commission will leave for talks in Washington in the next few days. [passage omitted]

U.S. sources told HA'ARETZ that a few weeks ago administration officials sent a message to Cairo through quiet channels in an attempt to gauge what the Egyptian reaction would be if Washington succeeded in pressuring Israel to unilaterally shut down the Dimona nuclear reactor. According to the sources, senior Egyptian officials received the proposal "with great pleasure."

Israeli officials yesterday said that professional experts dealing with arms control issues in the United States

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were inclined to pressure Israel to shut down its nuclear program but have been held back by the political echelon.

The Israeli officials alleged that "these bureaucrats only see the field they are responsible for and ignore the wider context of U.S.-Israeli relations and the American role in the Middle East."

The treaty for halting the production of fissionable material, called Cutoff [preceding word in English], will ban the production of high-grade plutonium and enriched uranium that can be used in nuclear weapons. The countries that sign the Cutoff treaty will have to open all their nuclear installations to international supervision.

The United States has promised Israel that the new treaty will not call for the supervision of existing stockpiles of fissionable material and that every country will be permitted to retain its current inventory without risking international intervention. The treaty's limitations are only designed to prevent the production of new material.

An official document formulated by the U.S. Administration in order to present the new covenant states that "the treaty will freeze the quantity of fissionable material in the world and help prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons." [passage omitted]

Minister: Country Cannot Comply

TA2105155095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Housing Minister Binyamin Ben- Eli'ezer says Faysal al-Husayni's warning that the land expropriations in Jerusalem could reignite the intifadah contradict the declared policy of Yasir 'Arafat. Ben-Eli'ezer was speaking to reporters after the cabinet meeting. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Housing Minister Ben-Eli'ezer was not too alarmed by Faysal al-Husayni's statements. Ben-Eli'ezer said al-Husayni's declaration contradicted the declared policy of Yasir 'Arafat. The PLO chairman was against halting the peace negotiations with Israel in spite of the land expropriations in Jerusalem; on the contrary, 'Arafat was for speeding them up, as this was the only way to ensure that the Palestinians obtained what was left of the land. However, Ben-Eli'ezer was concerned about last week's decision of the Jordanian Parliament, which rejected a government proposal to abolish restrictions on dealings with Israel. [passage omitted]

Energy Minister Gonen Segev was asked if Israel would comply with the American proposal that it sign the so-called Nuclear Cutoff Treaty. Any signatory would have to stop producing enriched uranium, which means it could not increase its nuclear stockpile. The U.S. is reportedly pressing Israel very strongly on this, but Gonen Segev says Israel cannot comply.

[Segev] I think that the government cannot give up on this issue, too, because as we know, even if Iran signs the NPT [nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty], we know how much this signature will change the situation in Iran. The same will be in Iraq or in any other totalitarian country, like we talk about. But Israel cannot stop the production of uranium and, too, let's say, disarm from the nuclear weapons that the newspapers say that we have. Of course, I think that the United States understands it, but we will have to wait and see how bad will be this pressure from the American Government. [end recording]

Fourteen Powers To Be Transferred by 1 Jul

TA2305053095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 23 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Oren Shahor, coordinator of activities in the territories, says that Israel is doing everything possible to complete the negotiations with the Palestinians on the civilian issues by 1 July. Major General Shahor says the transfer of powers is being implemented with full coordination and supervision by the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that by 1 July, 14 powers in various areas will be transferred to the Palestinians. It has also been decided that the helicopter landing pad that has been established in the Qarni area in the northern part of the Gaza Strip will receive the status of an international border crossing point, and an airline from Cairo to the Gaza Strip will be operated from it.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will shortly evacuate a military government installation in 'Attil north of Tulkarm. This was said by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in his meeting with PLO Chairman 'Arafat during their meeting in Gaza. This move is defined as an Israeli goodwill gesture vis-a-vis the Palestinians. According to political sources, it does not constitute a new stage in the IDF redeployment.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 23 May publishes on page 1 a report by Jon Immanuel on the Peres-'Arafat meeting which quotes Marwan Kanafani, 'Arafat's spokesman, as saying that one result of the 'Arafat-Peres meeting was an "agreement to coordinate between the two sides on expropriating lands needed to reroute roads on the West Bank." The report

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adds: "The government has said this is necessary to protect settlements and ease military redeployment."]

Daily Says Target Date 'Not Sacred'

TA2105085595 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 May 95 p 2

[Report by Hillel Kuttler in Washington]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The July 1 target date for concluding an Israeli-Palestinian agreement on IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment and elections is not "sacred" because the Palestinians have delayed past negotiations, an Israeli source said here Friday [19 May].

"I wouldn't mock any date, but I wouldn't make any day sacred," he said. "With Gaza/Jericho, did we delay anything? They delayed. Did we halt the talks after the Hebron massacre? They delayed the talks. Did we race out for consultations with (Yasir) 'Arafat every time? No, they did.

"I don't feel that we come to this issue with dirty hands... I don't advise that in the name of holy dates, we leave things foggy, and then the next day say: 'What exactly have we agreed on?' So it's much more important that things be clear and tidy for the two sides.

"We must have very detailed agreements for the elections: What is redeployment, and what about the continuation of the process?" [passage omitted]

The source also said it is proper for IDF officers to lead the talks with the Palestinians. "Everything connected to security, it's proper that professionals deal with it, meaning military people."

The Palestinian Authority has been pursuing terrorists in Gaza "with more seriousness" in recent weeks, he said, but it's "impossible to be satisfied" until greater steps are taken against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

He also said the Syrian military remains formidable, due to its sheer size and its missile capabilities, and that "a war with Syria would not be pleasant."

An Israeli-Syrian military understanding would be enhanced were a working relationship to exist between the military of each side, he added.

Contacts between Israeli and Syrian officers at al-Qunaytirah, like Israeli-Jordanian contacts at the Allenby Bridge prior to the peace treaty, would go a long way to building trust between the two sides, he said.

"Security arrangements (must be) much deeper than that, but a component is confidence building relationships between the two sides," he said. "So I think anything called a confidence building measure, not only militarily, has to start as soon as is possible."

The comments came amid a week-long visit here by Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahaq.

Foreign Minister Announces $125 Million Loan to PA

TA2205182095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres informed PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat that Israel would give the Palestinian Authority [PA] a loan of $125 million. This is the sum Israel is supposed to hand over to the PA as part of the agreements signed between the two sides, but cannot be handed over due to delays in Knesset legislation. Consequently, Israel proposed to initially extend the sum as a loan.

'Final Offer' Given to Syria; Netanyahu on al-Shar'

TA2205122395 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 May 95 pp A1, A2

[Report by political correspondents Aluf Ben and Yerah Tal]

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' says that over the last few months Syria has received "signals that the Likud will be eager to sign a peace treaty with Syria and that it knows very well this involves giving up the Golan Heights."

In an interview to Madrid's EL PAIS yesterday, al-Shar' says: "We will obtain the Golan Heights, regardless of which party rules Israel." Answering a question on whether Syria is not concerned about the possibility of a Likud victory in the Israeli elections, al-Shar' says: "Peace with Syria is a supreme Israeli interest. The Golan Heights' settlements were established by the Labor Party, and the Likud will give them up, just as it has given up the Sinai."

Yerah Tal adds: In reaction to al-Shar's remarks, Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said yesterday: "Obviously the Likud wants to attain a peace treaty with Syria, but not at all cost and certainly not at the cost Syria is currently demanding. The Likud will not withdraw from the Golan Heights, and Syria had better clearly understand this."

Netanyahu added that neither he nor any other qualified Likud element relayed direct messages to Syria. He noted that it is not inconceivable that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher — to him he clearly presented the position that a Likud-headed government will not

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withdraw from the Golan Heights — passed on his position to the Syrian regime.

Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, head of the Israeli delegation for talks with Syria, will meet Christopher today and hear from him whether he intends to arrive for a visit in the region this week. Washington awaits a Syrian answer regarding the security arrangements issue before it decides on Christopher's visit to the region. Israeli political sources yesterday said that if Christopher does not arrive in Jerusalem and Damascus this week, he will delay his visit until late June.

Over the weekend Israel relayed a new proposal to Syria, including an amended version of the controversial formula dealing with the security regime. Ambassador Rabinovich, who relayed the proposal to Walid al-Mu'allim via the American mediators, clarified that this was "Israel's final offer."

Israeli sources yesterday said: "This last offer is not a new concession. There is no substantial change in our position, which remains the same even if here and there the phrasing has been changed." They added that "the text currently under consideration is not identical to the one the Americans submitted to al-Shar'. Indirect contacts with Syria are continuing all the time, and since al-Shar's visit to the United States, the formula has been updated several times."

Soldier Throws Grenades in Yafo Church; No Injuries

TA2205181095 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 May 95

[Talk between anchorman Hayim Yavin in the Jerusalem studio and police affairs correspondent Ayala Hason in the Tel Aviv studio — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Yavin] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier walked into St. Anthony's Church in Yafo this evening, fired off hundreds of rounds, and threw shock grenades in the nave. At the time of the incident only a priest and a nun, who miraculously were not hurt, were in the church. Policemen who arrived on the scene overpowered the soldier and took him into custody.

Our police affairs correspondent Ayala Hason is in our Tel Aviv studio with the first pictures and details about the incident.

[Hason] The incident began this afternoon at 1730 [1430 GMT] at St. Anthony's Church on Yefet Street in Yafo. Luckily, only a priest and a nun were inside at the time. An IDF soldier, a young tall man wearing a uniform and carrying an M-16, broke inside, throwing shock grenades and firing hundreds of rounds at the walls and icons. [passage omitted]

[Yavin] Do we know anything on the soldier's identity or motive?

[Hason] The police most probably know his identity at this point, because he was apprehended and taken into custody. As for his motive, I assume we will learn about this at a later stage.

[Yavin] Religious Affairs Minister Shim'on Shetrit harshly criticized the attack on the church in Yafo this evening. Shetrit said this was the result of the fanatical escalation which had begun spreading in right-wing circles.

[An update at 1750 GMT adds: "Hundreds of residents of Yafo have gathered near the church where an IDF soldier opened fire this evening. The 21-year-old soldier has been positively identified. It should be noted that no one was hurt in the incident, but the church suffered a great deal of damage. Our correspondent Ayala Hason updates us that the crowd set a police patrol car on fire and clashed with the policemen. One policeman was injured in the head when a stone was thrown at him."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 22 May adds: "The soldier who opened fire in the nave of St. Anthony's Church in Yafo is currently being interrogated at the Abu-Kabir lock-up. He is a 21-year-old soldier doing his regular service who lives in a moshav near the border with Lebanon. His motives remain unclear at the moment, but Commissioner Gabi Last of the Tel Aviv District Police has said that he was not a member of the extreme right- wing."]

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Al-Kabariti Welcomes Decision on Land Confiscation

JN2205161395 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement to our radio a short while ago, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti described Israel's decision [to freeze land confiscation] as a positive step. He said:

[Begin al-Kabariti recording] The decision to suspend or freeze [land confiscation] is a positive step in the right direction. But it should be followed by a total cancellation of the confiscation decision and by a pledge not to take any future measures to encroach on Arab sovereignty in conflict with the international charters and law and commitments under the current agreements in order not to expose the peace process to any future setbacks and to preserve confidence on which peace should be established and protected. [end recording]

Israel's Confiscation Decision Termed 'Insufficient'

JN2305095495 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 May 95 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "An Insufficient Step in the Right Direction"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli Government last night took a step in the right direction when it suspended its earlier decision to confiscate hundreds of donums of land in Arab Jerusalem. Israel has thus reversed one of its most controversial and provocative decisions that posed the gravest danger to the peace process.

The Israeli Government's decision is not sufficient, not to mention that it is considerably less than what is required in this respect, which is, revocation of the policy of confiscating Arab land for building Jewish settlements. However, this decision is a step, though small, along a long path. We do not believe Israel would have taken this step had it not been for Jordan's principled and pressing stands, particularly its adherence to the approach established by his majesty the king considering Jerusalem a symbol of peace and the key to security and stability that should not be messed with or disregarded.

In his letter to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, his majesty the king stressed in strong and clear terms that land seizures in Jerusalem hamper the peace process and that the confiscation decision should be urgently reconsidered.

We believe that Israel's suspension of the confiscation decision is helpful to the peace process and has rescued it from imminent danger. We also believe that the Arab decision not to hold the mini-summit was hasty, and reveals that the confiscation decision had put the Arabs in an embarrassing situation.

We believe that Jerusalem, which is a redline for all Arabs and Muslims, has not yet been saved from the Israeli claws and is not in a secure position, given that Israeli expansionist ambitions are still threatening it from all directions. All these conspicuous dangers necessitate a more active Arab and Islamic role to check the Judaization of the holy city. His Majesty King Husayn was very clear in this regard yesterday when he asserted, during a telephone contact with President Husni Mubarak, the need to continue preparations for holding an Arab summit that would unite ranks.

We hope the Arab leaders would rehabilitate the Arab summitry through calling for holding a comprehensive Arab summit this time. Hundreds of millions of Arabs and Muslims continue to feel great affection for Jerusalem, which is a city that is too big to be the capital of Israel, and too hard for it to devour.

King Talks to Mubarak, 'Arafat on Arab Summit

JN2205191095 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn received a phone call from his brother His Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, this afternoon. They exchanged views on the proposed Arab mini-summit in Morocco, as well as Arab and regional issues of common interest.

His majesty also phoned his brother His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco and thanked him for calling an Arab mini-summit to discuss the Jerusalem issue. The two leaders exchanged views on the need to continue to prepare for an Arab summit to unify the Arab ranks and protect the nation's interests and the future of its generations. His majesty stressed his eagerness to participate in any future Arab summit in order to achieve such noble goals.

His majesty also phoned President Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestinian National Authority. They exchanged views on issues of common interest, particularly the Israeli Government's decision to suspend the planned confiscation of lands in Arab Jerusalem. His majesty and President 'Arafat expressed their hope that progress would be made on all tracks to attain a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region.

His Majesty King Husayn had sent a letter to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday. In the letter, his majesty stressed the importance of Jerusalem to every Jordanian, Arab, and Muslim and expressed hope that negotiations would be held on Jerusalem

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in accordance with the provisions of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and within the agreed upon timetable between the two sides. His majesty asserted that the launching of the peace process from Madrid was based on international legitimacy, whose resolutions stipulate that Jerusalem was an occupied Arab land. Jordan, he added, will support the Palestinian brothers to enable them to attain their legitimate rights. His majesty also stressed in his letter to Rabin the need to reconsider very quickly the Israeli Government's decision to confiscate Jerusalem lands because it will hamper the peace process and shake confidence in the future of peace.

Pro-Treaty Deputies Join Oppositionists on Jerusalem

MM2205082295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 May 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Jordanian Deputies Who Supported the Treaty Have Now Joined the Opposition and Call for Withdrawal of the Two Ambassadors and Suspension of Normalization Measures"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — A large number of Jordanian deputies who supported the treaty with Israel have now joined the opposition deputies and have called for a firm stand against Israel in the wake of its expropriation of Arab land in Jerusalem despite the peace process in the region.

The deputies' demands included calls for a reconsideration of the treaty and withdrawal of the two ambassadors. It was reported yesterday that the Jordanian Government has approved the holding of the popular conference called for by the parties opposed to normalization with Israel.

That was announced by Deputy Hamzah Mansur, spokesman for the bloc of Islamic Action Front deputies in the Jordanian House of Representatives, which held a heated special session the day before on the land expropriation issue, interrupting its official annual recess.

Dr. Mansur told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: What is taking place in Jerusalem is a catastrophe which we anticipated a long time ago.

He added that the statement issued by the House of Representatives after the special session it held on the Jerusalem issue, interrupting its constitutional recess, was insufficient considering the great flood of proposals, ideas, and demands made by several deputies, especially the Islamic Movement deputies and the rest of the 24 [opposition] deputies in addition to a good number of deputies who joined the opposition deputies in their demands.

He revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the demands were as follows:

1. Suspension of all forms of negotiations with Israel.

2. Reconsideration of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.
3. Recall of the Jordanian ambassador from Tel Aviv and deportation of the Israeli ambassador from Amman.
4. Exclusion of the laws on normalization with the enemy from the agenda of the extraordinary session of the House of Representatives.
5. A call for an emergency meeting of the Arab Interparliamentary Union.

Deputy Mansur said that a good number of deputies who had supported the Jordanian-Israeli treaty have supported the demands of the opposition deputies and even made much more advanced proposals than those submitted by the opposition on this issue.

He added that the meeting of the deputies and the mass of ideas and proposals submitted by most members of the House of Representatives marked the beginning of a new phase requiring the formulation of a plan for future action in light of what has happened.

On the "Jordanian popular conference against the enemy and against normalization," Deputy Mansur said — before the authorities' approval was announced — that the preparatory committee had addressed invitations to the 24 opposition deputies in the Jordanian House of Representatives who had refused to sign the peace treaty.

He said: These deputies will come to the conference and participate in its work. He expressed hope that the conference, which he said was a natural right under the Constitution and was guaranteed under the law, would be held and said that not allowing it would be a violation of the Constitution and the law.

The official spokesman for the Islamic Movement deputies bloc said that, in his view, the conference would be held under normal conditions and said that he discerned some positive indications by some senior officials that they would not object to the conference, which is scheduled for 26 May.

Asked about the possibility of opposition to the conference, Mansur said that the conference would still be held because we would provide offices and headquarters which nobody would have a right to object to as a venue.

Deputy Mansur said that there is nothing new regarding the case of Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, the of-

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ficial Hamas spokesman. He added that Ghawshah is still maintaining silence and not making any press statements, and that Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, chairman of the Hamas Political Bureau, and Engineer 'Imad al-'Alami are still in Jordan.

He urged what he described as some officials in the executive branch to reconsider their calculations regarding Hamas and its informational presence through Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah in view of the Israeli measures, the expropriation of land in Jerusalem, and Israel's violation of international charters, particularly as Israel pays no attention to the UN resolutions and the right of the Palestinians to their territory and homeland.

Al-Surur: Passing Laws Lifting Israel Boycott 'Difficult'

JN2305100895 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 22 May 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MAJD has learned that House of Representatives Speaker Engineer Sa'd Hayil al-Surur informed Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir that it will be difficult to pass the government's draft laws on lifting the boycott of Israel, included in the agenda of the extraordinary session.

Engineer al-Surur told the prime minister that he felt a great change in the positions of the majority of deputies toward more toughness in confronting the Israeli ambitions in Palestine and Jordan and the extremist policies of Rabin's government, which do not reflect any real inclination to achieve peace and stability in the region.

Prime Minister Meets New Zealand Commerce Minister

JN2105140995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received at the Prime Ministry today New Zealand's Minister of Commerce Philip Burdon. The guest minister briefed the prime minister on his talks with his Jordanian counterpart, which will reinforce relations between the two friendly countries, especially in the economic field.

His excellency the prime minister reviewed the stages of the Middle East peace process. He stressed that a comprehensive and just peace should prevail in the region in order to continue with the economic development in the region as a whole. His excellency noted that the Israeli Government's confiscation of lands in Arab Jerusalem does not serve this purpose and jeopardizes the entire peace process.

His excellency also reviewed Jordan's preparations for the Amman economic conference. He said that Jordan is placing great importance on the success of the conference, especially in defining development projects needed in the region. He noted the basic role of the private sector in this field.

The guest minister stressed his country's support for just peace in the region and for the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, which will contribute to establishing the desired peace in the region. He noted that New Zealand is seeking to bolster ties of cooperation in all fields.

The meeting was attended by 'Adil al-Qudah, minister of supply and acting minister of industry and trade.

A session of economic talks was held at the Ministry of Industry and Trade today between the Jordanian side, headed by 'Adil al-Qudah, minister of supply and acting minister of industry and trade, and the New Zealand side, headed by Philip Burdon, minister of commerce and industry. Minister of Planning Dr. Rima Khalaf also held similar talks with the New Zealand minister. [passage omitted]

Al-Kabariti Receives New Zealand Minister

JN2105162995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti received in his office at the Foreign Ministry today Philip Burdon, New Zealand's minister of commerce and industry. During the meeting, the two sides held a detailed discussion on the overall Middle East peace process and Jordan's pivotal role in this process. They also discussed bilateral relations and the possibilities for developing these relations.

The guest minister praised Jordan's positive stands on building peace in the Middle East and reinforcing understanding among nations.

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Radio: U.S. 'Protection' Helps Israel Challenge World

JN2205155495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1137 GMT 22 May 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Israeli officials are back to talking about the factor of limited time available for the peace process so that it will achieve its desired objective. Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin is saying that if Syria does not make a move during the next few weeks to revive the peace process, then an agreement between Israel and Syria could be postponed for years. As Beilin sees it, the reason for this postponement is attributed to next elections in Israel and the United States. Based on this, Syria should move quickly and get closer and closer to the Israeli stand in order to establish Israeli peace, of course.

This Israeli official's statement carries nothing new in terms of form, content, and hence, objective. After achieving some breakthroughs on the Arab front and after signing partial agreements with some Arab parties, Israeli officials thought they can drag Syria to the same position this or that party was dragged into.

Israel's talk about time is a method of exerting pressure on Syria to give the impression that the available opportunity will be lost if it does not accept the proposed peace. Moreover, the Israelis are still trying to give the impression that Syria is the one which adopts intransigent stands and that it is the one which rejects the Israeli peace proposal.

However, the world is now aware that Syria did not demand anything more than the implementation of international resolutions which call for an Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders. If the one who sticks to international resolutions and international legitimacy is considered intransigent, then Syria leads those who are intransigent.

Brandishing time as a weapon to convince Syria to accept any peace at any price will yield no results. Syria does not feel the pressure of time. If a just peace requires many years, then Syria will wait all these years. However, it will not accept any partial and fragile deal that does not restore all its usurped territories and rights.

Syria supports a just, comprehensive, and durable peace. Peace, as viewed by Syria and the world, is founded on bases which the international community put in the form of clear resolutions that stress the inadmissibility of occupying land by force.

Israel's announcements so far are not based on any logic or sense and have nothing to do with international legitimacy and its resolutions. Indeed, on the absolute contrary, Israel is the one which continues to violate international law until now and continues its practices condemned by the international community.

Perhaps what helps Israel challenge the international community and encourages it to disregard international resolutions is the protection which influential countries, such as the United States, provide for it. The United States chose bias toward Israel against the international community's willpower when it used the veto to protect the aggressor from international condemnation.

Peace needs willpower, determination, desire, and commitment to resolutions issued by the highest body in the United Nations. All this does not exist on the Israeli side which wants a peace tailored to its ambitions and dreams — a peace that brings to them security and open borders and, at the same time, keeps Arab territories or parts of them under occupation.

This is a rosy dream that will not be achieved now or in the future, no matter how many years go by, because it constitutes an Arab capitulation to Israel's ambitions. Syria wants peace and rejects all forms of capitulation. In Syria's view, guaranteeing right, dignity, and security for all is the essence of peace. This will not be achieved without justice, which should include all parties.

U.S. Support for Israeli Positions Criticized

JN2105200895 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 20 May 95 p 9

[Article by 'Ali Dibu: "Anger Is Not Enough"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The angry Arab, Islamic, and international reaction to the U.S. veto reflects numerous concerns and apprehensions, led by concern for the peace process, for adherence to the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy violated by Israel, and for the serious results of the U.S. support for Israel.

Israel is exploiting this U.S. support in an attempt to drag the U.S. cosponsor away from the role of an honest broker, which the Arabs have not thus far sensed because Washington has not actually played this role. There is a great deal of evidence for this fact, the most recent being the U.S. veto that protected Israel's expropriation of land in occupied Arab Jerusalem, thus violating the bases of the U.S. initiative. These bases are the land-for-peace principle and the UN Security Council resolutions.

Moreover, the expropriation of this land violates the Oslo agreement, which was signed by President Bill Clinton as a witness and cosponsor. It also violates the

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peace process because peace cannot be achieved with a party occupying another party's territories.

Washington did not have to put itself in this embarrassing position, which is unacceptable on both the Arab and international levels, especially since the Russian cosponsor objected to the Israeli decision to expropriate lands in occupied Jerusalem. Israel wanted to depict the U.S. Administration as being totally biased toward it and not serious about its pledges regarding the peace process.

Israel also wanted to remove U.S. credibility all at once, as long as Washington is supporting the expansionist Israeli policy and adopting the Israeli logic and vision about peace. This logic is based on not withdrawing from the occupied territories and on regarding Jerusalem as Israel's unified capital. This has given the impression on the Arab street that the Clinton administration is more committed to the Israeli demands than any other administration.

Naturally, this U.S. commitment will enhance Arab and world doubts that the United States is not playing the role of an honest broker. In turn, this will escalate the action on the Arab street and will increase the pressure on the states that rushed toward Israel and signed agreements with it. It will also force these states to stop the negotiations and cancel the normalization, as is the case with the self-rule authority and Jordan. All Arab currents, groups, parties, and trade unions converge on this fact.

The Arabs have the right to announce their anger and objection to the course of events, to the U.S. defense of the continued Israeli attacks on them, and to depriving the region of peace and stability. The Arabs also have the right to announce their feelings about the increasing danger posed to their security and future due to U.S. military, financial, and political support for Israel.

This is especially true at a time when the Arabs cannot find an answer or justification for the continued U.S. bias against their rights and to the U.S Administration's insistence on undermining its position in the eyes of the Arabs despite the fact that doing so is not in the interest of the U.S. people. How will the U.S. people benefit from their administration's hostility to the Arabs in favor of Israel, which is an occupying force and to which they are still paying taxes and aid?

The Arabs have rights that are emphasized in the UN resolutions. They will never sell out any of these rights. They also refuse to surrender. But they are interested in a just and comprehensive peace. From this premise, a minimum degree of Arab solidarity should be achieved in order to protect the Arab existence and the pan-Arab entity, first by eliminating the inter-Arab differences, by giving preference to the pan-Arab interests, and by enhancing the role of the joint Arab institutions in favor of a united Arab position, Arab rights, and a just and comprehensive peace.

Al-Asad Receives Message From Iranian Counterpart

JN2205180695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1500 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Dr. Mohammad Reza Hashemi-Golpayegani, Iran's minister of culture and higher education. Dr. Salihah Sunqur, minister of higher education, and Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, Iran's ambassador in Damascus, attended the meeting.

Dr. Golpayegani conveyed a message to the president from Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Discussion dealt with the situation in the region and bilateral issues.

Foreign Minister al-Shar' Receives PLO's Qaddumi

JN2205172495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, today. Yusuf Shakkur, the assistant foreign minister; 'Abbas Zaki, member of the PLO Central Council; Nimr Hammad, the PLO's representative in Rome; and Mahmud al-Khalidi, the PLO's representative in Damascus, attended the meeting.

Talks focused on the Arab situation, developments in the Palestinian arena, and Israel's confiscation of Palestinian lands in East Jerusalem.

Minister Receives UN Investigation Team on Golan

JN2205153995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, this morning received a UN delegation in charge of investigating Israeli practices in the occupied Syrian Golan, headed by ambassador Leonard de Silva, Sri Lanka's permanent representative to the United Nations. Tahir al-Husami, head of the Foreign Ministry's Department of International Organizations, attended the meeting.

The discussion dealt with the committee's task of investigating Israel's practices in the occupied Syrian Golan and occupied Arab territories, its continued settlement and repressive activities against our kinfolk in the Golan, and its obstruction of the committee's task and peace efforts.

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The committee arrived in Damascus last night and was received by Tahir al-Husami, head of the Foreign Ministry's Department of International Organizations, and a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

Ministry Report Submitted to UN Committee

JN2305081995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 23 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Tahir al-Husami, director of the Foreign Ministry's Department of International Organizations, has submitted the Syrian Foreign Ministry's report on human rights conditions in the occupied Syrian Golan to the UN committee in charge of investigating Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories, which is currently visiting Syria.

The report urges the international community to move from the fact-finding stage and begin employing effective pressures on Israel to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy by withdrawing to the 4 June 1967 borders and halting its practices that encroach on human rights in the Golan and the other occupied Arab territories.

The report stresses that the international community should not recognize any measures adopted by the Israeli occupation authorities to exploit the national resources of the Syrian Golan or to make any demographic changes to the land, the nature and means of utilizing its natural resources, or to the infrastructure of the occupied Syrian Golan. It also calls for refraining from extending any form of assistance to these Israeli measures.

The report says such steps by the international community are very important to ensure the Israeli authorities' full adherence to all internationally accepted human rights standards in the occupied Syrian Golan. These steps also help and support Syria in its demand and just right to restore the entire occupied Golan.

The report says the Israeli occupation authorities' continous atrocities are not in line with the efforts aimed to realize peace in the Middle East—peace that is based on the UN Charter and UN resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The report says that building roads in the occupied Syrian Golan, constructing highways between Mount Hermon and al-Himah, allocating funds for other projects, continuing land confiscation, supporting settlement construction, investing in new tourist projects in the Golan, continuing assistance to already established tourist projects, and completing other projects, plus the deceptive talk about a referendum on withdrawal from the Golan — and no one has any doubt about the malicious intentions and objective of such a referendum — all these issues are not a positive indication of Israeli cooperation with, and effective response to the U.S. initiative on peace in the Middle East.

This committee, which is charged with investigating human rights conditions and Israeli practices against the Palestinian people and other peoples in the occupied territories, was set up in 1968, and is currently touring the Middle East. It will present a report to the UN secretary general, who will then refer it to the General Assembly.

Reportage on al-Shar' Visit to Spain

WA1805150295

For Syrian reportage on the visit to Spain by Foreign Minister Faruq al—Shar' see the Spain section of the 18 May West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

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Afghanistan

Mojaddedi Views Rabbani's 'Legal' Status, Taleban

LD2205154595 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kabul administration cannot remove from their posts legally appointed ministers, Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi told the BBC last night. He said: Presently Rabbani is not a legal president of the country. He has extended his presidency term several times. But cabinet ministers were appointed when the government was legal and acceptable to all organizations.

On the visit of General Dostam to Moscow, the esteemed Mojaddedi said General Dostam is visiting Moscow on his advice. The Russians have asked him to join Rabbani but General Dostam has turned down that request and has said that he will never join the Rabbani administration.

In connection with the Taleban group the esteemed Hazrat said: The greatest mistake of the Taleban was losing in a short time the areas where the Kabul administration could not make any advance in the previous three years. If they accept our conditions, we are ready to cooperate with them.

Taleban, Hekmatyar Said Negotiating Alliance

LD1805150395 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, May 18, IRNA — Afghan student militia and the main Afghan opposition group are negotiating to forge an alliance with [as received] the government led by President Borhanoddin Rabbani, Afghan sources said here Thursday [18 May].

The representatives of the student militia, Taleban, and Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party], led by holdout Afghan leader Golboddin Hekmatyar, met in southern Kabul to look into the possibility of making a joint front against Rabbani.

Taleban and Hezb forces fought a pitched battle a few months back routing Hekmatyar troops from their strongholds including their headquarters, Chahar Asiab, some 15 km west of Kabul.

The sources told IRNA that the two sides agreed to form a coalition government in Lowgar Province and were negotiating on the possibility of forming a grand alliance.

Meanwhile, Afghan leader Pir Seyyed Ahmad Gilani has left Kabul today for the northern town of Mazar-e Sharif to discuss his peace proposal with Uzbek warlord General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam.

Gilani, head of the Afghanistan National Islamic Front as part of his efforts to bring peace into his war-weary country has discussed his peace formula with President Borhanoddin Rabbani, his ally, and the head of Ettehad-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan [Islamic Union of Afghanistan], Professor 'Abdorrab Rasul Sayyaf and his arch rival.

Gilani has proposed the formation of an Intra-Afghan Monitoring Council to take over power from Rabbani, whose extended term in office expired last December.

The peace formula also suggests the constitution of six committees to work under the proposed monitoring council. The six committees will oversee and organize the transfer of power, cease- fire, foreign policy, defence, refugee rehabilitation, and free elections.

Coverage of Recent Taleban, Government Clashes

Fighting Continues in Maydan Shahr

LD2105184395 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday the exchange of heavy weapons fire between the Taleban and the Kabul administration forces continued in Maydan Shahr. According to reports reaching here, yesterday too, the Taleban and Kabul administration forces fired on each others centers with heavy weapons in the surrounding of Maydan Shahr, capital of Maydan-Wardag Province.

According to another report, the Taleban forces in Delaram district are making preparations for a fresh attack on the positions of Isma'il Khan's forces in that district. Recently the Isma'il Khan forces have captured some centers of the Taleban in Farah and Nimruz as a result of aerial and ground attacks. Now the Taleban forces are making military preparations to recapture their previous centers.

Taleban Posts, Prisoners Captured

LD2105160995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As a result of a successful operation by the Islamic army forces, a number of security posts have been cleared up around Maydan Shahr and 20 Taleban have been taken prisoner. A source of the armed forces told BAKHTAR that units of the Islamic army took 20 so-called Taleban prisoner and captured a number of their security posts during a clearing up operation this morning. During the operation, which was

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backed by artillery and aerial bombardment, (?70) so-called Taleban militia were either killed or injured, and a number of their fortifications have been destroyed.

Army Halts Offensive

BK2205075895 Hong Kong AFP in English 0746 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, May 22 (AP) — Forces loyal to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani on Monday [22 May] said they had halted an offensive against the Taleban student militia south of Kabul after wresting control of a number of strategic sites.

Acting Defence Minister Yunes Qanuni said most of the peaks overlooking Maydan Shahr, a town 35 kilometers (21 miles) southwest of Kabul held by the Taleban, had been captured on Sunday by loyalist forces.

An AFP reporter confirmed Sunday that Kotal-e Takht hill, a strategic point, had been seized by forces commanded by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, Rabbani's military chief.

"The Taleban have lost the two main positions from which to launch attacks on southern Kabul and Farah," a province in western Afghanistan, Qanuni said Monday.

The student-led Taleban army had captured Nimruz province and most of Farah in March, crowning a string of military successes that put them in control of 10 Afghan provinces in six months.

They then tried to seize part of Kabul but were humiliatingly ousted by Rabbani's forces.

In western Afghanistan, Rabbani's troops made significant advances against the Taleban, officials in Kabul said Saturday.

The officials did not identify the areas reportedly seized by pro-Rabbani troops, but the state-run Kabul Radio said late Friday that the forces had cleared Farah and that they were now moving towards Delaram and Zaranj in neighbouring Nimruz.

Army Has 'Edge Over Rivals'

LD2205124795 Tehran IRNA in English 1149 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, May. 22, IRNA — Fighting between forces of President Borhanoddin Rabbani and student militia, that erupted yesterday, continued today and reports say that government troops have edge over their rivals. Afghan government sources told IRNA that their troops have captured some strategic points controlled by Taleban including Bor-e Raigi and Kotal-e-Takht in southwest of Kabul that is about 20 kilometers from Maydan Shahr, capital of Vardak Province.

The sources said government forces uses helicopters and planes in the attack on Taleban who claim that their troops were giving strong resistance to Rabbani forces. Both sides claim to have inflicted heavy casualties on the other sides. However, independent sources said that government had upper hand in the fighting.

General Yunes Qanuni, in charge of Afghan Defence Ministry has said that government is determined to push back Taleban to the south of Vardak.

Meanwhile, Taleban sources said that they had launched an attack on Chahar Asiab, west of Kabul from Lowgar Province.

Calm Restored After Taleban Defeat

LD2205153295 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zabol, Sistan and Baluchestan Prov., May 22, IRNA — Calm has been restored to Nimruz after complete defeat of the Afghan Taleban militiamen and deployment of Afghan government forces in the province. Inhabitants of the war-stricken province have resumed their daily activities. Afghan sources in Nimruz said that after three days of fighting between Taleban forces and the government troops, all cities and towns in the province including Zarang, Chakhansur, and Char Borjak were under the control of government forces.

Meanwhile, Iranian and Afghan businessmen resumed trade activities in the market of Milak near the Afghan border after one week of recession.

India

Official, Press View of Congress-I Party Split

Spokesman Denies Split

BK2205125995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Congress-I says there is no split in the party. Talking to newspersons in New Delhi today, the party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said some people have left the party and this cannot be compared to the two splits on earlier occasions. He said Mr. Arjun Singh was a member of the cabinet and the party working committee and was collectively responsible for all decisions taken by these bodies. He said Mr. Singh was present in the meeting of the CWC [Congress Working Committee] on the 4 April 1994, which took a decision regarding the continuance of

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party president and general bodies of pradesh [state] Congress committees and AICC [All India Congress Committee]. Describing the convention called by the dissident leaders as totally unconstitutional, Mr. Gadgil said these leaders did not choose to requisition the AICC to raise these matters as they could not get the support of 20 percent AICC members for convening such a meeting.

Daily Discusses Split

BK2205134395 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 22 May 95 p 15

[Article by P. Raman: "Divide and Multiply"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Congress has split. But the country will have to wait for some time before the real fallout of the split can be gauged. In its long march, the Indian National Congress has gone through well over half-a-dozen splits — some as insignificant as the A P Sharma-Pranab Mukherjee walkout, and some as sweeping as Indira Gandhi's 1969 revolt.

The challenge of the Congress socialists of the 1930s left an indelible ideological divide and influenced policy for about five decades. Even S S Mohapatra and Pranab Mukherjee brought crowds to their anti-Rajiv conventions, and described their split as historic, But those who came — or were brought — to the ND Tiwari-Arjun Singh show, were a different crowd. For the first time after 1991, a highly politicised crowd cheered and jeered at the speakers, something which was missed at Tinipati, Surakund and the Rao Rallies during the assembly elections.

The crowd participated in the deliberations and forced Messrs Singh and Tiwari and their friends to elect a new party president. The crowd sat through the nine hours, many even missing their free lunch. If the Talkatora crowds really represent the Congress(I) rank and file, this should send a warning to the Rao government. The convulsions within the Congress(I) this time are an echo of the anti-government mood whipped up by the opposition. the political atmosphere is so delicate that unless effective steps are taken, things can take an ugly turn.

From all accounts, the 1995 split is a mixture of personality clashes, Congressmen's frustration over Rao's failure to win them votes, and a determination on the part of some of them to bring back the Indira-style populist programmes to regain the lost vote bank formed by the weaker sections, Harijans and minorities. If the dissidents can effectively provide new hope to the ranks, there could be an exodus from the official camp, as was witnessed in 1971 and 1979.

Who would have anticipated, even a month ago, a revolt against the central leadership by half of the Congress MLAs [members of legislative assembly] in Rajasthan? Those who play power politics can behave most unpredictably when political morale collapse. Threats of discipline become in the Central hall of the Parliament, there is even talk of MPs insisting on guaranteed tickets as an incentive against desertion to the new Congress(I) This may or may not be true. But it certainly shows the volatile mood of the partymen.

As of now, Narasimha Rao's main strength is his control over the party establishment and the government. this gives him an edge in keeping partymen happy. While the ranks of a cadre-based party remain loyal due to their ideological commitment, in the Congress it is the compulsion of power that restrain the leaders from breaking up the party. This is what essentially differentiates the Congressmen from the Janata Parivar, who are so used to making and breaking governments. The Congressmen's instinctive fear to strike will greatly help Narasimha Rao to retain his hold over the ranks.

Added to this is the widespread feeling among partymen that Arjun Singh and ND Tiwari are not more charismatic than Rao. They are yet to establish their ability to collect crowds and bring in votes. All this may enable Rao to retain the vaguely presumed 15 percent traditional Congress vote bank, which has always remained with the party. Finally, Rao continues to enjoy the support of business, both national and global. This is crucial, not only for funds, but also for shaping a favourable climate through the media.

The dissident group relies mainly on Congressmen's desperate search for a messiah. Rao's rigid stand on populist programmes, not to mention his apologies to the minorities, is forcing the average Congressman to seek alternatives within. Arjun Singh and Tiwari are trying to replicate Indira Gandhi's programme and political strategy as an alternative to Rao's prescriptions for economic and social difficulties.

The political and economic documents adopted at Friday's [19 May] convention are a clear pointer that the dissidents plan to take advantage of the general anti-government mood in the country. Their views on economic policy are strikingly similar to criticisms raised by the Left and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]. Simultaneously, the dissidents are also staking claim to the real Nehru-Indira-Rajiv legacy on self-reliance and nationalism, as opposed to globalisation.

The dissidents will also seek to woo minority votes. Even during the convention, they repeatedly announced through the public address system that Namaz facilities

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were arranged at the nearby mosque for Muslim delegates. Senior rebel leaders assailed Rao for being pro-RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh]. The idea is to win back people who have got aliened from the Congress in the past four years. The dissident will soon organise a series of conventions in the states to win over large Congress ranks.

According to the game plan, since the rebles have presented an alternative front within the Congress organisation, all expelled Congress workers and state-level dissident groups are expected to join them. Also, those who have reasons to believe that they would not get a ticket next time would also enter the recruitment yard. But for this the dissidents will have to make it look like a big exodus. Their strategists claim that in an atmosphere of durbar politics, denial of tickets does not automatically mean that the denied are political rejects. In the last assemhbly elections a large number of rebel candidates got more votes than the official ones.

The dissidents also plan to use the MPs and legislators who have already joined them. The dilemma for the official leadership is that in case these leaders are expelled for anti-party activities, that would automatically free them from anti-defection rules. Instead, the official camp's efforts would be to bind them permanently by whips, the violation of which would lead to the loss of membership of the House.

The Congress split has also put Sonia Gandhi's much-rated political prowess to test. Rao has already taken courage to defy her with his refusal to hudge on unity talks. Will she finally take the plunge by putting her weight behind the dissident? Or will she persist with her hands-off policy? The latter option will make her politically irrelevant. In case she comes out to help the dissidents. She will have to show her strength by touring the states to sway the party ranks to her side. This would be a big political gamble for her.

Sonia Gandhis' problem is that even though she is seen as a big asset within the Congress organisation, she will be a political liability outside the party. Her role as a perpetuator of hierarchy and her foreign background and religion will make her a soft target for opposition attacks. Her association with the new group will automatically foreclose any possibility of their tie-up with any opposition group in the future. This is quite an important factor at a time when the Congress split further strengthens the possibility of a hung parliament next year.

Editorial Views 'Clear Division'

BK2005132895 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 20 May 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Parting of ways"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The clear division that followed Friday's [19 May] dissidents' rally in New Delhi has signified a virtual closure of doors for any possible reconciliation between the two warring Congress factions, led respectively by Mr Narasimha Rao and the Arjun Singh-N.D.Tiwari duo. No other denouement was expected despite the frantic efforts of the lst two days by a large number of Congressmen to persuade Mrs Sonia Gandhi to intervene to stave off the crisis. Indeed, their very desperation showed that the party as a whole had suddenly become aware of the distinct possibility of a rupture that may not be healed. But having reached such a critical stage, there was, of course, little possibility of retracing steps. Several proposals to bring about a rapprochement were aired, but they never inspired much confidence. It was suggested, for instance, that Mr Narasimha Rao should step down from the party president's post or, at least, allow the appointment of what has come to be known as a working president. It is just possible that move would have found acceptance in the loyalist camp if the mediators had enough time on their hands. But the sticking point obviously was the related issue of Mr Arjun Singh's expulsion which his opponents were loath to revoke.

Clearly, too much had happened since Mr Arjun Singh raised the banner of revolt after the party's electoral debacle in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh for either of the two sides to make any major concession. After a time, any process of disintegration acquires a momentum of its own when the people involved tend to be swept along rather than be in control of what is happening. It is patent enough that when Mr Arjun Singh and Mr Tiwari began their campaign, their main objective was not to split the party but to capture it by replacing the current leadership. But they could not attract enough heavy weights to their ranks to make their revolt credible. Even now, no one can be certain whether the claims that were made at the rally about the presence of the number of MPs and AICC [All India Congress Committee] members are true. But what they have done is to demonstrate that there is considerable resentment within the Congress about the present leadership. The rebels have tapped this successfully, but in the process they may have dealt a mortal blow to the organisation not long before a crucial round of elections.

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Daily: Most Members 'Fence-Sitters'

BK2005142295 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 20 May 95 p 1

[Editorial by Editor V.N. Narayanan: "The Die Is Cast"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Once again, the Congress party is poised to emulate the amoeba, split itself into two and launch itself into a battle to decide who constitutes the "real Congress". The so-called Congress workers convention called by Messrs Arjun Singh, Narain Dutt Tiwari and others in New Delhi on Friday [19 May] has ritually formalised the split by installing Mr Tiwari in his place and revoked the expulsion of Mr Arjun Singh. This decision is more questionable than what Mr Rao did to Mr Arjun Singh, but those who passed these resolutions at the convention would claim that they are the real Congress and would point to the tens of thousands who thronged the convention braving scorching heat and boring speeches. Mr Narasimha Rao and his "establishment" will pooh-pooh the claim and point to the majority of Congress legislators and office-bearers who did not attend the convention as proof of their "real" credentials. In between these two extremes lie lakhs and lakhs of ordinary Congressmen who are genuinely worried about the future of the party and who find that they have no choice, not even between evils.

It is tempting to recall the 1969 Congress split and divide the present day Congress into the "establishment" Congress headed by Mr Narasimha Rao and comprising the holders of office, controllers of the party machinery and those who orbit round the centres of power and the "rebel" Congress, made up of former ministers and party office-bearers claiming the support of a majority of rank and file Congressmen. The claim of mass support is spurious. The truth is that most Congress leaders and men today are fence-sitters. And the fence is as long and capaciously wide as the Great Wall of China.

Congressmen, over the past three decades, have got into the habit of relying almost wholly on their "leader" to win elections. Their pathetic dependence on an identifiable and normally unchallengeable leader owes itself to the fact that over the years, to the aspiring Congressman grassroots support, organisational work, constituency identity and mass support have all become irrelevant for his election to and survival in office. For these, he looks up to the leader and if, in the Congressman's perception, the leader cannot ensure safe election, it's time to press panic buttons. This is the reason why Congressmen are never worried about absence of internal democracy or prolonged abstinence from organisational elections. It is also the reason why the gaze of most Congressmen today is fixed hopefully, and pitiably, on Mrs Sonia Gandhi.

Mr Narasimha Rao's sin is not that he has been a bad Prime Minister or an autocratic Congress president. The political and economic resolutions passed at the rebels' convention attacking Mr Rao for the ills afflicting the nation should be dismissed out of hand as the product of efforts by pretenders for power seeking to clothe ambition and vengefulness in robes of reasoned arguments based on principles. Mr Narasimha Rao's default lies in not arresting the growing apprehension in the minds of rank-and-file Congressmen that their party is a potential loser: Mr Arjun Singh is exploiting this fear among partymen even as Mr Narasimha Rao is doing precious little to restore the sagging morale and confidence of the Congressmen. On the question of performance, Mr Narasimha Rao has nothing to be defensive about. Even today, given the choice between him and any other Congress leader, a majority of Congressmen would consider him the better bet.

Friday's convention has pushed the Congress to a situation where the initiative for unity or to save the situation has to come from Mr Narasimha Rao. To make matters worse for the Prime Minister, any proposal from him would weaken his position rather than add to his bargaining power. Since perception rather than reality rules the mind of the Congressmen, the many positive points about the Congress rule of the past four years will be brushed aside by partymen preferring to see Mr Rao as the harbinger of gloom and a massive electoral reverse. Mr Arjun Singh and Mr Tiwari are harping on the enveloping gloom rather than offering alternatives of hope. They are in the comfortable position of possessing hands that can point accusing fingers at others.

It is a measure of the state of the Congress that everyone in the party is looking at Mrs Sonia Gandhi as a potential saviour. Perhaps, the only point of agreement between the 'Rao' Congress and the 'Tiwari' Congress would be that both would be willing to accept any formula proposed by her in the interest of the party. Mrs Gandhi has so far kept herself out of politics and governance, and perhaps will continue to do so. But Congressmen are unlikely to leave her alone this time. The question "who's the Congress," as far as they are concerned, is not so important as what they apprehend to be a logical next poser: Where will the Congress be?

Troops Out To Prevent Kashmir Protest March

BK2205044595 Hong Kong AFP in English 0408 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, May 22 (AFP) — Heavily armed Indian troops were out in force in this Kashmir summer capital on Monday [22 May] to prevent a protest march by Kashmiri Muslim groups opposed to Indian rule, witnesses said.

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Indian border guards in riot gear had surrounded the headquarters of the All-Party Kashmir Freedom Conference, an umbrella organization of Muslim separatist groups known as the Hurriyat which called the march, they said.

The Hurriyat had urged residents of the Muslim-majority Kashmir Valley to march Monday on the town of Charar Sharif, where an Islamic shrine was destroyed last week in an incident which has inflamed anti-Indian sentiment.

Omar Farooq, the chief priest of Srinagar's main mosque and chairman of the Hurriyat, vowed that the march would go ahead. "Nobody can stop us from going to Charar Sharif," he said. "Why are the troops creating barriers?"

Hundreds of paramilitary troops were seen taking up positions around this lakeside city of one million people to prevent the marchers from assembling.

"We have to see that no gathering takes place here because vested interests may try to exploit the situation for their own interests," said police chief Mahinder Lal Sabharwal.

The Kashmir Valley remained crippled for a 12th consecutive day meanwhile by a strike called to protest the burning of the 15th century shrine to Kashmir's patron saint, Sheikh Nuruddin Wali.

Shops, banks, offices and schools were closed and traffic remained off the roads, witnesses said.

More than 11,000 people have died in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, since Muslim militants launched a violent campaign for an end to Indian rule in 1989.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the insurgents, a charge denied by Islamabad, which also lays claim to the Himalayan territory.

'Protesters' Reach Shrine

BK2305035795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Thousands of Kashmiris reached Charar Sharif [from Srinagar] yesterday, defying restrictions imposed by the occupation authorities. They offered prayers at the site of the shrine of Sheikh Nuruddin Wali. Mir Waiz Omar Farooq, the chief of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, who led the mass prayer, placed a piece of cloth as an offering at the shrine. Addressing the gathering, he again rejected the Indian Government's offer to rebuild the shrine. He said the shrine will certainly be built but with the financial assistance of the Islamic world.

Speaking on the occasion, another senior Kashmiri leader, Mr. Abdul Ghani Lone, said Kashmiris will boycott the so-called elections in the occupied territory under the Indian Constitution. He said he will announce a week-long shutdown in the valley ahead of any elections. It was the first visit of the leaders of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference to Charar Sharif since the razing of the shrine on 11 May. On this occasion, hundreds of wailing women shouted anti-India slogans.

Reports say more than 20 persons were killed during clashes with the occupation forces. Earlier, clashes erupted between occupation forces and demonstrators at several places in Srinagar when thousands of protesters set out for Charar Sharif, shouting anti-India slogans.

Iran

Rafsanjani Calls U.S. Sanctions 'Propaganda War'

LD2305103295 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 23 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin President Hashemi-Rafsanjani met today with outstanding preachers and Islamic missionaries of the Islamic Publicity Organization from throughout the country. [passage omitted]

Referring to the great divine blessings of the Islamic revolution and the Muslim people of Iran, who helped the holy system come through its harsh and dangerous phases and transformed it into an independent and stable power in the region, Hojjat ol-Eslam val- Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Despite the extensive and negative propaganda uproar by the foreign propaganda mouthpieces, which has been coupled with the murmurings of individuals who are weak, uncompromising, and incompatible with the Islamic system, the foundations of the country's economic independence have strengthened with every day. The U.S. sanctions are considered to be merely a psychological and propaganda war against the Islamic system. [passage omitted]

Velayati Interviewed on Religion, Regional Issues

MM2305085595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 May 95 p 2

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by Munsif al-Sulaymi in Rabat; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Sulaymi] What is the volume of trade and economic transactions between Morocco and Iran?

[Velayati] The annual volume of trade between Iran and Morocco has reached $250 million. During my meting with Moroccan Prime Minister and Foreign Minister

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Abdellatif Filali last Friday [19 May], we decided to form an economic and trade joint committee to meet before the end of July in Tehran and to examine ways of developing and diversifying trade and economic transactions between the two countries, which are now concentrated on the exchange of oil and phosphate.

[Al-Sulaymi] What about the political aspect of your relations with Rabat?

[Velayati] The joint committee will focus on economic and trade cooperation. As regards political cooperation, that takes place outside the framework of the committee. We have a third field of cooperation which is the cultural and ideological field which runs parallel to the political and economic fields and which is in the context of the message previously sent by King Hassan II of Morocco to President of the Iranian Islamic Republic Hashemi-Rafsanjani which included the idea of a joint meeting to bring religious doctrines closer together. President Rafsanjani accepted the contents of that message and meetings were held in that context between some ulema and intellectuals from both sides.

[Al-Sulaymi] You are making efforts to bring the religious doctrines closer together but, in parallel to that, is there any inclination to bring Tehran's policies closer together with those of the Islamic states?

[Velayati] The religious and political processes certainly influence one another.

[Al-Sulaymi] How is that?

[Velayati] When people of the various Islamic doctrines get closer, one of the most important effects and results of that is rapprochement between the Islamic states and peoples.

[Al-Sulaymi] Morocco, for instance, considers itself to be a moderate Islamic state and its leadership understands Islam as a religion of dialogue, tolerance, and rejection of violence and extremism. Do you agree with that concept?

[Velayati] What was proposed on the question of rapprochement between religious doctrines was particularly an effort to bring the Sunni and Shiite doctrines closer together. On your question as to whether we are for or against dialogue, I say that if we study Islam we would find that it includes dialogue and war, the moderate and the hard-line. In other words, it combines both and contains the concepts mentioned.

[Al-Sulaymi] But the understanding of Islam is that it requires a concept for every time and place. Do you see the current concept to be favoring dialogue or intransigence?

[Velayati] That depends on the circumstances and conditions we face. In the case of confrontation with Israel, for instance, that could only be a clear and frank confrontation with necessary daring, because we see it as an enemy.

[Al-Sulaymi] There have been rapid developments related to the Jerusalem issue. What were the results of your talks with Moroccan officials on that matter?

[Velayati] Of course, the Jerusalem Committee has not met to discuss the issue but we have our own viewpoint. We believe that Israel only understands the language of force. What happened in recent days proves our point not the point of those who opt for dialogue with the Israelis.

We have seen two examples. One was the exclusion of Israel from the discussions on the renewal of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty at the United Nations. We saw the U.S. support for the exclusion of Israel from the discussions on that issue. The second example was the U.S. use of its veto against the draft resolution condemning Israel on the question of Jerusalem. The Israelis and the supporters of the so-called peace process had been saying that a promised heaven, stability, and peace would result from the peace process, but how can they explain the present situation and what answer could they come up with after the Israeli aggressions and the new expropriation of land in Jerusalem?

What can they tell us after the confiscation of Palestinian and Muslim land in the city of Jerusalem?

[Al-Sulaymi] Will you be asking the Moroccan monarch to mediate between you and Washington to ease the crisis which has developed?

[Velayati] I carry a message from President Rafsanjani to King Hassan, and I have no comment to make on the second part of your question.

[Al-Sulaymi] A recent Pentagon report sees Iran as a major political threat in the Gulf region. What is your answer to that report?

[Velayati] The U.S. side spreads these false claims and fabrications as cover for the U.S. aid to Israel in the region. We harbor nothing for the Gulf states but goodwill, peace, and prosperity for all peoples and states of the region. As regards the Americans, their aim is a military presence in the region and that is why they look for pretexts to fulfill that wish. That is their aim when they spread lies and fabrications about Iran.

[Al-Sulaymi] The United States is accusing Iran of trying to build nuclear reactors. How do you view that charge? Do you believe that the Gulf region is now

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faced with the specter of the nuclear threat after the wars over oil?

[Velayati] Note that the Americans are accusing us of trying to obtain nuclear weapons and we refute and reject that charge. There has to be a third internationally accepted neutral party whose judgment, if made, would be accepted by us. We believe that the UN Nuclear Energy Commission is the body qualified internationally. Under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty which has recently been extended it is clearly and specifically stated that that commission is the official body which could identify and settle such issues.

If there is a real threat to the Middle East and the Gulf regions because of the presence of nuclear weapons, that threat comes from the nuclear arsenal of Israel which, according to Western reports, now has 200 nuclear warheads at least. That is what the Westerners who support Israel are saying. So the threat is not from us. We always open our installations to inspection and observation by the UN Nuclear Energy Commission which has paid numerous visits to Iran and carried out repeated inspects. We are one of the signatories and supporters of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

[Al-Sulaymi] You have said that Iran only wants prosperity and peace for the Gulf states, but in reality problems do exist such as, for instance, the problem of the occupation of the islands of the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

[Velayati] We believe that the current problem between us and the UAE over the island of Abu-Musa can be solved bilaterally.

[Al-Sulaymi] But you have rejected arbitration.

[Velayati] Arbitration occurs when a third party intervenes to settle the dispute. We insist that the problem should be solved bilaterally. We have in fact begun a dialogue with the UAE to solve that problem. I have personally visited the UAE and met with officials there and invited them to Tehran to complete the talks on that matter, and they accepted our invitation and it was decided that an envoy would come from the other side, and we are waiting for him.

[Al-Sulaymi] Will a UAE official arrive in Tehran soon?

[Velayati] We expect that.

[Al-Sulaymi] Has your ministry received any indication from the UAE Foreign Ministry on that?

[Velayati] We are still waiting for them to set a date for the visit. We take this opportunity of the interview with AL-SHARQ AL- AWSAT to confirm our invitation again and to say that we are waiting for a UAE envoy to discuss the islands.

[Al-Sulaymi] You would welcome a visit by a UAE official but do you really have a serious intention to discuss the fundamental issues pertaining to the problem of the islands and the UAE right to them?

[Velayati] We have an agreement with the UAE signed in 1971. We are prepared and willing to sit down and hold talks with the UAE side in the context of that agreement and to discuss any article of the agreement and whether any of the provisions of the agreement have been violated or not adhered to, and if we discover any problem we could remedy whatever encroachment or violation, if any, had occurred and end the problem.

[Al-Sulaymi] What is the latest on your relations with the Gulf states?

[Velayati] We have good relations with some Gulf states and moderate relations with some others. We wish the Gulf states nothing but prosperity and peace.

[Al-Sulaymi] There has been some tension recently in relations with Baghdad following the assassination of Iranian opposition figures (from Mojahedin-e Khalq) in Iraq, and the two countries traded accusations. Are there any new problems in that respect?

[Velayati] In the world of politics there is an abundance of accusations. Pay no attention to them. If they claim that we are behind every incident that occurs in Iraq, it is not true. An Iranian delegation began a visit to Iraq (the day before yesterday). It is headed by my adviser at the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Khordah.

[Al-Sulaymi] What will your aide discuss in Baghdad?

[Velayati] He went to Baghdad to resume previous talks which were suspended for a while.

[Al-Sulaymi] What will he propose to the Iraqi leadership?

[Velayati] Generally speaking, we are trying to resolve the outstanding problems between the two sides.

[Al-Sulaymi] Are you facing difficulties in relation to the question of Iraq's adherence to the 1975 agreement and the agreements reached in recent years such as the one on the exchange of POW's?

[Velayati] There are no problems regarding the 1975 agreement because Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, in a message to the Iranian president, pledged commitment to and recognized the agreement and he declared his acceptance of it. In practice, we are not facing any problems in this connection. For their part they are working and benefiting from the Iraqi side of the river (Shatt-al-'Arab) and we are benefiting on the Iranian side without any problems between us.

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As regards the POW's, there are still some POW's and missing persons who have not been released by Iraq.

[Al-Sulaymi] There are fears in several Arab governments about Iranian aid for extremist fundamentalist groups.

[Velayati] These are unfounded charges.

[Al-Sulaymi] Cairo, for instance, has criticized you on this matter.

[Velayati] The situation with Egypt is now better. Its position is now different from what it was before because they are realizing that these charges were unfounded.

At any rate, confirmation or denial of these charges can clearly be ascertained. Any government claiming that Iran has links or contacts with these opposition groups only has to produce the documents and evidence and announce them to the public. We refute and reject these charges.

[Al-Sulaymi] There is a fear of your alliance with Sudan for instance.

[Velayati] Sudan is an independent Islamic state and we have good relations with it. Some do not like that, so they look for reasons to undermine these relations and undermine the situation in the region. Therefore they level accusations.

We regard Sudan as an Islamic Arab state and are proud of our good ties with it. So what is the problem? What is wrong with having good relations with it?

Velayati on Need To Improve Relations With Iraq

LD2205180795 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Velayati, who had gone to Morocco to attend the extraordinary session of the foreign ministers of the contact group member countries of the Islamic Conference Organization, returned to Tehran last night.

About the decisions made during the recent session of the contact group member countries, he said that representatives of Islamic countries are to review the Bosnian issue at the extraordinary session of the UN General Assembly.

Referring to the joint efforts made by Iran and Greece last year to resolve the Bosnian crisis, he said that the international community has welcomed those efforts.

He also stressed that constructive talks had been held with the Moroccan authorities. He said that the two countries reached agreement on the expansion of economic cooperation.

In reply to a question by our correspondent about the visit to Baghdad by a high-ranking delegation from our country, he said:

[Begin Velayati recording] As two neighboring Muslim countries, Iran and Iraq need to move toward achieving good-neighborly relations. Of course it started some time ago, but for various reasons it was delayed. Now, with the two countries' agreement a delegation from various organizations, including the Foreign Ministry led by the president's adviser, has gone to Iraq to resume talks — which had been interrupted for some time — with their Iraqi counterparts at a high level.

We hope that with goodwill from both sides we will be able to solve the existing problems and misunderstandings. [end recording]

Radio Views Delegates' Visit to Iraq, Need For 'Unity'

LD2205214695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A high-powered Foreign Ministry political delegation departed for Baghdad on 21 May to hold talks with Iraqi officials. Dr. Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, confirming the report, said that cooperation between the two neighboring and Muslim countries of Iran and Iraq is now felt more than ever before. He added that this is expected that the visit can remove the obstacles existing on the way of normalization of relations between the two states.

After the end of the 8-year long war between Iran and Iraq in 1988, despite relatively suitable conditions, relations have not progressed as expected by the two countries. At present, considering the Middle East situation and the sensitive Persian Gulf region, the elimination of differences between Tehran and Baghdad is necessary more than any other time.

The fact is that the factor bringing the two governments of Iran and Iraq closer to each other are much more than the factors keeping them apart. First, the two countries have a common enemy called the U.S. By executing the policy known as dual containment, Washington tries to obligate the two countries to follow Washington's policies by exerting political and economic pressures on Tehran and Baghdad. The fact as a pressure lever reveals the need for the expansion of ties between Iran and Iraq.

Meanwhile, the developments confronting the world of Islam necessitates the continuation of regular and constructive talks between Iran and Iraq, and relations between the two powerful Muslim and adjacent states

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should not be allowed to fall a victim to the transient variants. Actually, with respect to the conditions in the Middle East and the unveiling of the U.S. profiteering designed by the implementation of the Arab-Israeli peace plans, it seems that the sole way to confront the enemy and to reduce the difficulties facing the Muslims is the unity of the Muslim states. This is also true in the Persian Gulf region and the regional states must not allow Iraq to remain out of the orbit of the Persian Gulf region any longer. And, as the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials have frequently underlined, the security of the Persian Gulf region must solely be maintained by the regional states and the alien troops must pull out from the region itself.

Anyhow, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always demonstrated its good faith in relations to the strengthening of the ties with Baghdad. And, with the visit to Iraq by the high-ranking Iranian political delegation, the Baghdad statesmen are expected to prepare the ground for the resolving of the remaining differences between the two states.

'Source': Nuclear Plans With China Near Collapse

MM2305135695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 May 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Three Points of Disagreement Between Tehran and Beijing; Chinese-Iranian Nuclear Cooperation Facing Possibility of Total Collapse"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Informed sources in Tehran have confirmed that the long-term nuclear cooperation plans between China and Iran are on the verge of collapse. An Iranian source, in a telephone statement made yesterday, said that "the recent talks in Beijing showed that the positions of the two sides were far apart."

That view seems to contradict the line taken by the official media in Tehran which stressed that the Beijing talks between an Iranian team of experts and Chinese officials produced "positive results."

It should be recalled that Tehran and Beijing had reached an agreement in principle under which China would supply Iran with two or three nuclear power stations. Agreements on technical and financial details were due to be signed this summer but Tehran sources emphasize that this is now out of the question.

The nuclear stations being negotiated are of the Kenchan [as transliterated] model designed by the Chinese in the eighties. There are four types of that model now in operation in China, each with a capacity of 200 megawatts.

Iran wants higher capacity — 300 megawatt — models. The possible collapse of cooperation between the two countries is not due to pressure from Washington, although it might seem so at first glance. Beijing has firmly rejected any interference by Washington in China's relations with other countries.

In the recent Chinese-Iranian talks, three points of disagreement emerged:

1. China is not sure of its ability to provide all the technology and equipment necessary for nuclear power stations. Furthermore, the Kenchan model depends on parts made in Germany, the Netherlands, and the Czech Republic.

So there are some sensitive points regarding these governments which may not be willing to supply Iran with such parts. Chinese scientists are now working on a modified model which does not require European parts but it will take at least four years to complete.

2. The Chinese side was supposed to submit detailed plans connected with the technology used but it did not. It also failed to implement plans for training Iranian technicians.

3. The Iranian team which went to Beijing was unable to produce detailed financial plans. It is now not clear how Iran intends to cover the 1.2 billion pounds necessary for starting work on the first two stations. The Chinese did not show enthusiasm for part payment of the costs in Iranian crude oil.

The Iranian side went to Beijing with specific information about the locations where it wished the plants to be built. That information is important because Iranian territory is situated on a major earthquake fault line which means that the nuclear stations should be designed to withstand earthquakes.

Tehran sources say that while both sides seem determined to proceed with the project, neither is in a hurry. Iran does not have the necessary funds and China does not wish to be on close links with a regime that is on a direct collision course with the United States.

***Roots of Economic Crisis, Plans To Counter**

95LA0200A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 6, 8, 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] **[6 Apr p 5]**

When the fires of the eight-year imposed war died out, the public thought that the problems, difficulties, and malfunctions in the country, especially in economic affairs, would improve and that they would see no more increases in the rate of inflation and prices or decreases in the value of the nation's money, etc. Was this not a

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normal expectation for a nation that had given its all in defending its soil, its honor, and its revolution?

When the post-war period began and the new government was elected, this normal public expectation was subordinated to the famous thesis, "the post-war economy." Not only did the economic indicators fail to improve, they skyrocketed out of control. This was especially true of the price indicator.

According to the economic experts, the most important feature of the post-war economy is economic discipline. In adopting policies based on this feature, the government is guiding post-war society toward maximum economizing in all areas. Leading the way in this activity, the government is putting economy at the top of its agenda in all areas. These experts believe that under such circumstances, as the post-war experiences of some societies have shown, economic changes will come under complete government control and that in time all the economic indicators will improve.

Why has this not taken place in our country's post-war society? In the period since the imposed war, meaning in the six years or so since 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989], why have the economic indicators not stabilized? What are the factors that have caused the government not only to lose its controlling and guiding role in these changes but even to aggravate them as one of the clashing elements?

There is no doubt that it will not be so easy to solve the nation's economic problems, in view of their vast extent on the one hand and their complexity and their connection to other sectors on the other. Perhaps one indication that these problems remain unsolved is that unfortunately sufficient attention has not yet been given to this important matter.

In this regard, Dr. Sa'idi, Majles deputy from Minudasht, discussed the conditions that have caused violations in the nation's economic sector. He said:

Throughout the period of the former regime, consumerism was encouraged, but despite the fact that after the triumph of the Islamic revolution laws and regulations were gradually passed to eliminate the tendency toward consumerism, positive results have not been achieved because of the weak cultural work.

Noting that insiders in the government and the media must make every effort to eliminate consumerism in society, he said:

In this regard the government and the Majles have tried, in view of the great economic backwardness throughout the period of the former regime, to guide the nation's budget credits into infrastructure investments, and this has meant injecting money into society.

Continuing his remarks, Dr. Sa'idi discussed the allocation of foreign exchange by the government to the public sector at rial equivalents lower than its actual value on the market, for the purpose of buying production line machinery and even consumer items from abroad. He said:

The increase in the investments and population growth and the reduced foreign exchange revenues as a consequence of the drop in the price of oil and the increase in world prices have sharply increased the gap between the government foreign exchange rate and its real value on the market. Moreover, the lack of stability and consistency in the implementation of laws, regulations, and even the Central Bank's programs that could in the long run have the desired effects on the real price of the dollar, have exacerbated this gap between the government foreign exchange rate and the free market rate.

The deputy from Minudasht said that some profiteers abuse these temporary and corrective regulations and policies, making matters worse. He said: Consequently ample preparations were made for some people who have the financial or economic ability to maneuver. He believes that for these reasons, conditions were favorable for economic violations in the country.

Dr. Sa'idi expressed the hope that the government and the Majles will make the appropriate decisions and establish economic security in the country by clarifying the nation's general economic requirements in order to bring the nation to its true position in the international economy. According to him, when this happens most of the economic violations in the country will end under those circumstances.

Dr. Shibani, Majles deputy from Tehran, also regards the government's failure to deal decisively with economic violations as one of the main reasons for high prices. He said: The government is putting all of its effort and attention into overall problems and general programs. It considers high prices and selling at high prices to be trivial and unimportant. Dr. Shibani considers violators in the economic sector to be corrupt. He said: In my view, officials should use basiji forces to stop the activities of these corrupt people. If need be, they should execute a few of them to serve as an example for other violators.

He believes it will be useful if the campaign against high prices and selling at high prices is conducted as seriously and decisively as the anti-smuggling campaign.

He discussed the Motion To Intensify the Campaign Against Economic Violations, which was submitted to

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the Majles in the last days of 1373. He said: Some people consider the lack of legislation as the reason for the appearance of economic violations, and we will solve that problem with this motion by removing any legal obstacles to the campaign against economic violations.

Dealing With Economic Saboteurs

Apparently this idea that the economic problems have their roots in the activities of violators and economic saboteurs has special importance both among the officials in charge and among the people. A look at the articles in the newspapers about economic saboteurs printed in 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991], for example, shows that the public and especially the Majles deputies believe that dealing decisively with economic violators is one of the main ways to solve economic problems.

The headlines of the most important of these articles, printed in the KEYHAN in 1369, the year prices and other economic indicators began to climb, are as follows:

"Urgent Motion on Punishments for Economic Saboteurs in the Country Submitted to the Majles"

"Public Welcomes Majles Motion To Execute Economic Saboteurs"
"The Public: Economically Corrupt People Have Undermined Our Lives; Execute Them!"
"Majles Deputy: By Executing Economic Saboteurs, We Must Give the Necessary Vitality and Stability to Productive Activities"
"Deputy Majles Speaker: The Punishment for Economic Saboteurs is Death"
"Majles Approves General Form of Law on Punishments for Economic Saboteurs"
"Death Penalty Approved for Economic Saboteurs"
"Guardian Council Approves Death Penalty for Economic Saboteurs"

It has been more than four years since this law was approved by the Guardian Council. During this period not only has there been no significant enforcement of this law, but economic violations have continued along with the excessive price increases. It has gotten to the point where even the government's patience has run out, and the fight against high prices and selling at high prices has become the most basic and urgent item on the government's agenda.

The fact that the government has not succeeded in carrying out this plan may be attributed to the unprecedented jump in the prices of foreign exchange and coins as the two main factors in the increase in the prices of other goods and substances. The government's submission of the Bill to Fight Economic Violations and the motion by more than 100 Majles deputies to intensify the campaign against these violations may also be interpreted as an indication of the government's lack of success in controlling prices.

Views of the People

In a survey among the citizens of Tehran on the form the government's campaign against high prices and selling at high prices is taking, it became clear that they unanimously believe these kinds of methods cannot be used to fight economic violations. They called for decisive punishment of economic saboteurs.

One citizen of Tehran, when asked for his recommendation for fighting economic violations, replied: I recommend that those in charge of the campaign against economic violations work to identify, expose, and decisively and persistently punish society's economic violators and plunderers, without regard for restraining advice and factors, political considerations, or other things. He believes that these organizations should use the methods the revolutionary courts used in fighting the counterrevolution.

Another citizen also believed that more public participation should be used in the fight against economic violations and that the relevant laws should be seriously and decisively enforced. He said: The violators should be punished at the place of violation as an example to others. According to him, individuals should be appointed to management positions who know God and have true faith and who are not in material need.

According to another Tehran citizen, not only has the government's recent campaign against selling at high prices failed to solve any problems, it has made the situation worse. He said: The people are facing price increases, not just every day but every moment. Whenever the government sets the price on an item, it immediately becomes unavailable on the market. Then after a while it is sold at several times the price. He recommends that either nothing at all be done to fight selling at high prices so the situation will not get worse, or the campaign should be carried out with real and serious measures.

Another Tehran citizen said that in the nation's economic system the brokers and middlemen create most of the profit. He said: This shows that the distribution of wealth in our society is unequal. He believes that the government is helpless in the fight against selling at high prices because of the lack of a complete system of supervision.

It is worth mentioning that the latest decision on the problem of high prices and selling at high prices was

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for the government to set the prices of various household goods. In announcing these prices, the Market Regulation Staff intends to prevent excessive price increases. The question here is: Will these measures succeed in stabilizing the prices of 550 items, or will prices unfortunately increase again, while the actions against violators by the Government Penalties Organization lead nowhere, as in the past? **[8 Apr p 5]**

Economic and financial discipline, whose attainment this year the exalted leader emphasized in his 1374 New Year's speech, is the most feasible solution available to those running the Islamic system, and especially the government, for dealing with the problems caused by economic violations. Naturally, in a disorderly economic atmosphere, there is no point in talking about attaining economic goals.

Ignoring or at least minimizing the importance of economic violations, especially in financial and banking affairs, which unfortunately have become routine in the last few years, will serve no purpose other than to benefit the violators and their supporters.

According to the experts, the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution's timely emphasis on attaining economic and financial discipline in 1374 brought a ray of hope to the people and all those who are truly concerned about the nation's interest. The reflection in His Holiness Khamene'i's New Year's message shows that there are various forms of disorder in the economy and in the nation's financial arteries. The experts believe that this message was an ultimatum to high-level economic officials on the one hand and to the judiciary and monitoring systems on the other.

According to these experts, today is a better time than any other to deal decisively with economic violations. These experts think the most important measures for achieving economic discipline are reforming the general budget, reforming the financial control system and establishing severe penalties for violators without taking other considerations into account.

In his New Year's message this year, the exalted leader of the revolution portrayed economic discipline as the way to resist financial extravagance, excesses, and wasteful consumption. He said: Those who spend pointlessly and consume excessively are ignoring the need to conserve the nation's economic resources. They are the economic and financial disorder. I ask the people of the nation, the nation's officials, and government officials to take financial and economic discipline seriously. Everyone in society, especially those who spend public assets, must spend only as much as required to meet needs.

In his 3 Farvardin [23 March] speech this year before a large gathering in Mashhad, the exalted leader called extravagance a swamp and financial waste a Satanic temptation. He said: Extravagance and waste are forbidden things in the Islamic revolution, but unfortunately some people ignore this.

His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i also said: Islamic Iran has remained an active and lively entity despite all the enemy obstruction, thanks to divine guidance. All officials and people must avoid doing the least thing that might harm this great movement, and this includes extravagance, excessive consumption, greed, and unsound incomes.

An Economic Expert's Views

An economic expert regards economic discipline as the nation's most important issue. He said: As much success as possible for the government in establishing economic and financial discipline in society will make the government look more efficient in the eyes of the public. On the other hand, if economic confusion, disorder, and insecurity spread, this will undermine the government's credibility and public confidence. He added: The government's general budget and the budgets for the government companies make up 70 percent of the nation's domestic GNP, and the expenses in the government's general budget is growing at 40 percent per year.

Continuing, he said: In view of the enormous growth in expenses and the government's control of 70 percent of domestic GNP, there is no doubt that any economic discipline must begin with the government. According to him, any efforts without the cooperation of the public will get no result. This expert said that current revenue resources are not appropriate for these expenditures and this level of public expectations from the government.

He said: Our tax system is outmoded and inefficient, and oil revenues still make up most of the government's revenues. According to this expert, in 1374 more than 70 percent of the revenues in the budget are directly or indirectly dependent on oil revenues. He added: Oil revenues are both limited and decreasing, while expenditures are growing at the rate of 40 percent. Procuring the rials needed for the budget will undoubtedly put pressure on the foreign exchange rate.

He believes that if there is no basic revision of the structure of the government's budget and a serious revision of public expectations of the government, at this rate in the last years of the Five-Year Plan the dollar will cost more than 2,000 tumans, and this in itself could cause disorder and chaos in the economy.

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Continuing, he noted: When the budget increases 40 percent per year, that shows how necessary it is to establish economic and financial discipline, and this discipline begins with the government. He said: If the government organizations and companies review their consumption of fuel, water, electrical power, and other things; if pointless and wasteful government expenditures are stopped and expensive buildings are discontinued; and if surplus workers are guided into production, in view of the government's 70 percent share of domestic GNP, we will have significant budget savings. If government waste and extravagance are stopped and if the work ethic is awakened in government workers, then it will be easy also to ask the people not to be extravagant.

He said: Economic independence is achieved through financial and economic discipline, the work ethic, more production, and less consumption. In his belief, to save the nation's economy, the tendency to import and consume must become a tendency to produce and export, and this will require national resolve.

History of Combating Economic Violations

The campaign against high prices and selling at high prices has a history. According to the historical experts, since the time that the economy became complicated in the lives of human beings, there have been violations in economic affairs.

It was clear that governments had to take measures to prevent disruptions in the social order and to deal with economic violations. The Government Penalties Organization public relations official mentioned some things with regard to the history of combating economic violations at the dawn of Islam indicating that Islam has placed much emphasis on this matter.

He said: The fight against selling at high prices and hoarding existed in the first years of the formation of the Islamic government by His Holiness Mohammad (peace be upon him). He added: In the Islamic traditions we encounter examples of protests, criticisms, and enjoining good and prohibiting evil by His Holiness Mohammad (peace be upon him).

Likewise, during the period of the government of His Holiness 'Ali (peace be upon him), there was market supervision and control and a campaign against selling at high prices and hoarding. His Holiness 'Ali (peace be upon him) personally went among the guilds and walked through the markets. Whenever he encountered a violator, he lectured him or punished him.

According to him, similar behavior was reported in the Islamic period on the part of the first three caliphs, the Umayyad caliphs and the Abbasid caliphs. The organization responsible for fighting economic violations was called "Hisbeh." It has special commands, regulations, and guidelines in Islamic theology.

He gave two examples of dealing with violators at the beginning of Islam. He said: One day His Holiness Mohammad (peace be upon him) saw a seller with his goods out in the rain. He mentioned this to him and asked: Are you going to tell the customer that your merchandise has been out in the rain? He mentioned another example. He said: One of the caliphs, in a visit to the bazaar, saw that a milk seller was pouring water into the milk. When he saw this ugly behavior he dumped all the milk on the milk seller's head.

The Government Penalties Staff public relations official noted that none of the Islamic clergy are opposed on the basis of religious law to supervising, inspecting, and controlling the market. He said: There are various conflicting points of view, however, with regard to pricing, selling at high prices, and other guild violations. According to him, in Islamic theology there are three general views on this:

A. There is the point of view that says that setting prices and fighting against hoarding (except in special and very limited cases) is against religious law.

B. There is the point of view that considers fighting against selling at high prices and hoarding to be religiously lawful and offers strong evidence to prove it.

C There is the point of view that believes that fighting against selling at high prices and hoarding is good but that this should be done with the consent of the owners of the merchandise. This point of view states that the vice-regent of the Muslims must bring each guild together and set prices with their agreement and in their interest in such a way that neither the people nor the sellers are hurt.

He discussed the reasons for violations in the economic sector. He said: Leaving aside the ethical considerations, the first reason in my view is the lack of a strong and coordinated economic system in society. This makes individuals feel that there is no economic security in the country. He said the most important factors causing economic violations are interference from non-economic policies, political factors, and bad and weak management. **[9 Apr p 5]**

The objections the people raise about the procedures for fighting economic violations in the country include lack of decisiveness, failure to follow through, and the lack of strong political will in society.

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A look at the fight against selling at high prices, which apparently began with the final approval by the Guardian Council of the National Law on Penalties for Economic Saboteurs on 10/1/1369 [22 December 1990], shows that public criticism of the procedures for fighting economic saboteurs is completely appropriate and real. This program formally became law and was issued for enforcement to the relevant executive officers after it received final approval from the Council of Guardians. In view of its contents, if implemented carefully it could be an effective step toward reducing violations.

In this regard, the remarks of one of the deputies in the Third Majles who objected to this motion at that time are quite interesting. He said the goal of the Majles approval of the program to fight economic violators was to establish social justice and deal decisively with leeches, gold diggers, and hypocrites. He said: Stabilizing the Islamic government is the same as social justice.

He added: 80 percent of society's financial resources are held by 20 percent of the people, and 20 percent of the resources are held by 80 percent of the people in society. With this in mind, and despite the fact that the death penalty is even provided in this law for some economic saboteurs, there has been no decrease in violations in the economic sector and the people continue to see economic violators in various ways in society.

Most Important Outcome of Activities of Economic Saboteurs

There is no doubt that the most important and strongest outcome of the activities of economic saboteurs is high prices and scarcity of goods needed by the people. According to the experts, barring a reduction or end to production, which could happen in the country under special conditions, the most important factor disrupting the balance between supply and demand is the sabotage of the sound distribution of goods. According to one consumer, supervision and control of the distribution of goods when there is an imbalance between supply and demand is an important factor in holding down the prices of items needed daily by the people.

With regard to controlling prices, he views supervising production at factories as one of the major ways of continuing the campaign against selling at high prices. He said: If violations are observed at the producing factories, then exposing the managers and officials to the public and sentencing them to the punishments designated by law will really be more effective than other methods. He believes that if the large and small actors in hoarding and selling at high prices and law-breakers at every level and position are exposed to the public without lenience or exception, if they are tried publicly and if the details of their violations are made public, the violator will truly be punished and this in turn will be an example for those who have no goal except to try to profit from the public treasury.

He noted: Just distribution of existing goods, rigorous control of the prices of goods, and publicizing the names of violators in the media will be real balm for the wounds of people who have been being robbed up to now of enormous amounts of wealth by hoarders and people selling at high prices.

Government Leader in Economic Affairs

One expert in economic affairs believes that the government itself creates the conditions for economic violations. He said: The government acts as the leader in economic affairs. If the leader commits a violation, the ones behind him will take this is as permission to commit violations. He noted that there are individuals in every society who are always looking for an excuse to commit violations. He said: If the government gives these individuals an excuse, they will clearly take that as an indication and charge ahead. When there are many violators, they cannot be dealt with easily.

In explaining his reasoning, he said: When the Majles passes the Budget Law each year and sends it to the government for implementation, that means that the government must make that the law for its work and move ahead on that basis.

He noted that after the triumph of the Islamic revolution and especially in the last six years, the government has not adhered to this. He added: The proof of this claim is nothing more than the failure to settle the budget at the end of each year. By way of explaining what is meant by settling the budget, he said: At the end of each year the performance under the Five-Year Plan and the expenditures for that year are to be studied to determine to what extent this performance conforms to the program approved by the Majles.

Continuing, he said: Unfortunately, the budget has not been settled in any year. If this had been done it would have been clear to what extent the ministries themselves committed violations.

He added: In addition to that, each year the Plan and Budget Organization itself, after preparing the plan and budget at the end of the fiscal year, must align performance with the plan. He said: There are many instances where this alignment has not taken place.

In an interview with us, a student also sharply criticized the performance of some university centers. He said: Some of these organizations, because they are part of the government, are making violators bolder in the nation's economic affairs. As an example, he cited

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the behavior of a government university with regard to admitting a student for night classes in medical engineering. He said: When registering the student for admission, this university charged him 1,000 tumans for each theoretical unit, 1,500 tumans for each applied work place unit, at least 5,000 tumans for each applied laboratory unit, and at least 6,000 tumans admission tuition for the first term. For about 145 units in the entire course of study, this student's total cost was estimated at a minimum of 200,000 tumans. Continuing, he added: After the admissions test and the announcement of the names of the ones admitted, this 200,000 tumans, which was said to have been the "minimum" tuition amount, suddenly increased to 1.1 million tumans, which is 5.5 times the amount previously announced by the university itself.

He said: Who should deal with these violations? To what extent are these kinds of arbitrary, personally determined acts and violations of the principles of ethics permissible in a government organization? When a government organization acts in this way, what is to be expected of others?

Bill Dealing With Economic Violations

Dr. Sa'idi, Majles deputy from Minudasht, believes that there is no shortage of legislation with which to deal with economic violations and economic saboteurs. He said: Despite the existence of legislation, as long as the conditions for economic violations in society are not eliminated and a good economic foundation is not established, one cannot be that hopeful for success in the fight against economic violations.

He noted: Under current circumstances, no law can be made to fit economic changes and complexities. Consequently, we will see that in some cases violations are not considered violations in terms of the law and that the judiciary's hands are tied in trying to deal with them.

Dr. Sa'idi discussed the Bill on Dealing with Economic Violations presented to the Majles by the government as a very urgent motion, whose urgent status was eliminated. He said: Under this bill, dealing with economic violations is within the jurisdiction of the Government Penalties Organization; that is, the task of dealing with these violations was taken away from the judiciary and given to the aforementioned organization, which is a government organization.

He discussed the Law on Penalties for Economic Saboteurs in the nation's economic system, passed by the Majles in 1369. He said: In my view, this law is complete and comprehensive with respect to violators in the nation's monetary and foreign exchange system, people who sell at high prices and hoarders, and it even provides harsh penalties. It provides for dealing with all the crimes mentioned within the jurisdiction of the Islamic revolutionary courts and public prosecutors. Therefore, the only things the new bill deals with are some economic violations such as smuggling goods and foreign exchange. The main goal of this law is to transfer the task of dealing with the aforementioned crimes to the government.

Continuing, the Majles deputy from Minudasht noted: In my view, this bill will not be that effective in stopping economic violations. If this bill had come to the Majles early in the revolution, perhaps it would have been more appropriate because of the special conditions that existed at that time. In present circumstances, with the capabilities the judiciary has in terms of resources and quality and also the new General Courts Law, the handling of crimes and violations will certainly be faster.

In view of the fact that we have no lack of legislation, the judiciary can deal with economic crimes and violations such as smuggling goods and foreign exchange carefully and in a way that is pleasing to God.

In any case, the campaign against economic violators has become one of the most important public demands with the unbridled price increases in the last months of last year and especially with the jump in the rates for foreign exchange and coins. One authority that apparently has an important responsibility in the punishment of violators is the Government Penalties Organization.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Qorbani, Government Penalties Organization, says that this organization's job is to deal with cases referred to it by the National Inspectorate Organization or private complainers. In this regard he said: Within the framework of the law, we do not have the right to inspect, set prices, or obtain goods. Our job is to deal with the cases of violators which are given to us by the competent authorities.

The chief of the Government Penalties Organization added: We have been successful with the work that has been assigned to us, although with regard to some people we have been given verbal and written instructions. However, we do our own work. He noted: In studying the cases turned over to us, we have assessed 247 million tumans in penalties, and we have issued these verdicts despite the various pressures from certain individuals.

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Growth of Telecommunication Networks

95LA0213A Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 16 Mar 95 pp 4, 5, 6

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Along the Development

The great and inevitable role that communication plays in deepening the culture of the human beings and expanding linkages among different societies, has motivated the surprising growth of telecommunication networks throughout the Islamic Republic of Iran.

A thorough study of the activities of the Telecommunication Company of Iran (TCI) in the past five years and particularly in the last year will shed light on the reasons behind this growth.

No doubt that, the existing and ever-increasing capacity of telecommunication, would promisingly, brighten the renewal of our civilization and Islamic culture in the coming years.

The following is a brief report of the TCI during the last year, and represents the activities related to the expansion of the telecommunication network, which would naturally result in raising the level of social education of the country and further preparation for development in economic and social grounds.

The report reveals that despite many difficulties, the target of 948,282 installed telephone lines and conversion of 61 to 63 percent of the installed switches to the most advanced digital systems has been met, while 626 km of fiber optic cables were also put into operation. The production sector has also undergone a magnificent development. Production of switching systems, solar cells, panels and various sizes of copper cables by the most developed factory of TCI, which would be the second of its type in Asia, would relieve the country from foreign procurement.

Network Structure

The hierarchical structure of the national system has been designed for three levels as Secondary Center (SC) at highest, Primary Center (PC) at the middle and Terminal Exchange (TX) at the lowest level.

Till the year 1979, only 27 cities were using automatic connections in the network with totally 850,000 subscribers in service. Thus, in 1993 this number grew to 324 and 1,900,000, respectively. Only in the middle of 1994 the cities with automatic connections were increased to 1,200 with 4.5 million subscribers in service.

Along with the above developments, digitalization of the network increased its reliability. In the year 1993, totally 42 PCs were in service, 21 of which were digital type and the rest is in the process of digitalization.

In the Second Five-Year Plan, 84 PC exchanges plus eight duplicated SC's will be of digital type with 5,000 cities having area code and automatic connections and totally 12 million subscribers will be accepted in this network.

By replacing the analog international switching exchange by digital exchange in 1991, there is a direct connection with 47 countries and transit connection with another 151 countries.

Growth in Quality and Quantity

In 1993 TCI had a quantitative growth as well as quality improvement in its local and networks. During this year, 600,000 telephone lines, 20,000 toll trunk and 500 international circuits were put into operation as well as providing facilities to introduce new features and service.

Tandem Network

A total number of 20,000 tandem channels were installed during 1993. The increase in tandem channels by microwave systems ranging from 2 to 13 GHZ with the capacity of 8 to 140 Mb/s was 7,630 RF km. MODERNIZATION

Digital Switching System

In the First Five-Year Plan, TCI decided to introduce digital switching system in the network. After a trial period two systems were selected. In that direction, approximately three million ports of digital switches were installed for either replacement of the analog system or expansion of digital system.

Due to the need for adoption of modern technology, network integration, using ISDN systems and finally compatibility to the digital switching systems, the first digital microwave project was put into operation in 1991. In 1994, planning of the future telecommunication network of the country by utilization the SDH systems was started.

Optic Fibers

In line with the increasing use of optical fiber in the world telecommunication systems 650 km of optical cables were installed and put into service during 1993. The total optical links for local networks was 2,500 km and those used in long distance transmission network amounted to 550 km.

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Solar Systems

In light of the advantages of solar power systems studies on utilization of solar systems in remote telecom sites started in 1984. By the end of 1993 the installed solar systems reached an equivalent power of 150 KWP for total number of 120 systems. It is planned that in the Second Five-Year Development Plan, solar system will achieve a higher utilization of up to 1.2 MWP.

New Services—Mobile Telephony

Parallel to increasing the quality of existing telecommunication services, TCI has successfully implemented the mobile telephony system. The system will be put in service in different places.

—phase 1 provides full coverage for Tehran radio area;

—phase 2 is envisaged to provide service for seven major cities;

Initial capacity of Tehran's network would be 10,000 subscribers and for each seven cities is 5,000 subscribers. Based on a contingency plan for provision of mobile telephony services in the coming years, the country will be divided into 10 regions with more than five million subscribers in a 15-year general plan. It is hoped that privatization policy and private investment would accelerate this pace.

Satellite Communications

Domestic

For securing communication with remote areas of the country, the use of satellite system was envisaged in First Five-Year Plan. Six main stations consisting of 192 channels and 52 sub-stations in six deprived provinces in the country were installed and put into operation.

International

Based on the policy to increase the number of international circuits in order to meet the global expectation and traffic, TCI has adopted IDR/DCME systems. The replacement of analog system by digital system has also increased the number of international circuits in 1993. The country's international telecommunication is based on three earth stations, few radio link telecommunication and fiber optics system.

Rural Communications

During 1993 major efforts were made to connect rural areas to the national network. To achieve this goal, over 800 rural communities joined the network. Satellite facilities have also been used to make the access to the remote rural areas easier.

Public Telephones

In order to improve the quality of the services, card phones have been introduced. Installation of public telephone sets and long-distance call sets in 1993 represents 64 percent and 40 percent of the achievements of the First Five-Year Plan.

Telegraph and Telex Services

In the First Five-Year Plan two digital telex centers have been installed with 6,000 and 4,000 subscriber capacity. At the end of 1993 the number of subscribers has reached 19,472. Subscribers are connected to the network via telex centers which have been installed in ten major cities.

Facsimile Service

This service is currently being offered to 12,800 subscribers. Public facsimile services are being offered through 1,393 post offices all over the country. Two other services, called telefax and bureaufax are also being offered through the switching centers. Bureaufax connections with Cameroon, Turkey, South Korea, Pakistan, Spain and Sweden have been established.

Iran Public Data Communication Network

However, data communication Services and Networks existed in Iran since 1961, based on available technologies of those days, new efforts began in 1993 to establish the first Public Data Network (PDN) in the country.

Leased Lines

So far Data Communication of Iran (DCI) has provided many organizations and private sectors with EDI services by establishment of more than 1,200 leased lines throughout the country. Out of these systems, private data networks are connected to other countries for foreign EDI services through 20 leased lines.

Iran Packet Data Network (Iran Paç)

This network will be established through four phases:

—in the Pilot Phase, a Packet Switched Exchange (PSE) with 200 ports capacity has already been installed in Tehran;

—In the first phase, 1,000 additional ports will be installed [throughout] the country. The network will be ready for operation in July 1994. There will be five directly connected countries and sixty transit countries by early 1995.

—In the second phase, 10,000 ports will be added to the Iran Pac system. The number of countries with direct

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connection will be 12 and they will be connected to Iran Pac by early 1996.

—In the third phase, the capacity will be expanded to 40,000 ports, and 20 countries will be directly connected to Iran Pac.

IP Network (Internet Protocol) TCP/IP

Iran is currently connected to EARN (European Academic Research Network) and via this network to Internet and Bitnet. So far seven universities have been connected to the Master Node of this network by leased lines.

Implementation of IP network throughout the country along with X-25 network is in the DCI agenda and this network will rapidly expand to the entire country mainly to educational centers (universities and R&D centers). With respect to the international connectivities, Iran Pac will have, very soon, access to some Internet gateways on X.25 networks in the United States and Europe.

Public Data Base Services

Iran Videotex System (IVTX)

DCI has, since inception, taken proper steps to set up the first public data base (Videotex System) to encourage public and private sectors to create similar systems. This data base is using ASCII/ANSI standard and its kernel is based on a BSS.

The current IVTX system as a pilot phase is providing the following services:

1. Videotex Services
2. Electronic Mail
3. Teleconferencing
4. Forum
5. Polling
6. Shopping Mall
7. Library of Files

Private Data Base Services

It is expected that during the implementation of DCI projects, public and private sectors will set up their own data bases and by connecting these bases to Iran Pac (via one or more X.25 links) they will provide professional information to their own clients.

Message Handing Systems (MHS)

Besides the existing (MHS) services based on the IVTX resources which is a domestic E-mail service, DCI is in the process of establishing two major (MHS)nodes, one for X.400/X.500 services and the other for Internet Services.

Iran Audiotex System (IATX)

Started from a small voice-mail, the system has grown to a multi-purpose audial system for different applications. This system will start with 12 access ports for audial services and one port for fax response applications. The following services will be provided by DCI audiotex systems:

1. Audio Programs
2. News (Headlines)
3. Short Messages
4. Public Services
5. Voice-Mail
6. Radio on Line
7. Teleconference
8. Forums
9. Polling
10. Fax Response

The telephone number for this audiotex system is 802-5555 (Hunting Group). The numbers of these telelines will reach 1,000 lines in 1995 which will suffice coverage of more than 500,000 subscribers in bilingual mode (English and Farsi).

Multimedia System

A public multimedia system which will be capable to integrate different types of information is a DCI objective in the long run.

Paging

In 1989 paging services were formally introduced in the country. At the end of 1993 the number of active pagers were 3,027. During the Second Five-Year Plan 19,000 pagers would be handed over to subscribers.

Research and Development

Iran Telecommunication Research Center (ITRC)

The center has been established in 1970 and since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran has initiated research activities in two supporting fields and one administrative field. Technical fields such as Radio, Multiplexes, Satellite, Data and computer telecommunication and supporting fields such as electronics and mechanics are being studied in the center.

Systems introduced by ITRC:

1. Zafar low capacity switch: (100 lines)
2. Asr low capacity switch: (256 lines)
3. Fajr low capacity: (400 lines)

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4. PCM multiplex system of 2 Mb/s: (30 channels) in three kind—urban, inter-urban and subscribers modes
5. Eight Mbps Digital multiplex system: (120 channels)
6. Eight Optical line terminal system: (120 channels)
7. Digital microwave radio of eight Mb/s in Giga hertz band
8. SCPC (Satellite Earth Station)
9. TVRO (Satellite Television Receiver)
10. The data transfer equipment
11. Automatic tester for testing the electronic circuits

Production

Shahid Ghandi Cable Industry

Shahid Ghandi Cable Industry Company, a subsidiary of PTT was set up in Yazd in 1985 with the goal to attain self-sufficiency in the telecommunication industry of the country. However, the construction of the plant was started in April 1988.

Copper, the major row material for production of copper conductor cables, is being supplied from the Sarcheshmeh copper mines through the Iranian National Copper Company.

The plant is equipped with the most modern and computerized apparatus to control the quality of the production line. It makes the products of the plant competitive with the products of the world major and well known producers of this industry.

The annual production capacity of the plant is 4,000 MCM and will be doubled in the near future. With occupying an area of 100 hectares and 200,000 square meters of buildings and 1,000 staff, the plant is the largest telecommunication-producing factory in the Middle East.

Iran Telecommunication Manufacturing Company (ITMC)

ITMC was established in 1967, with an annual production capacity of 45,000 EMD lines and 60,000 telephone sets and has started its production in 1969. The present annual production capacity of the plant is 200,000 EMD lines and 300,000 telephone sets. Since 1990, ITMC, through signing two separate contracts with German companies for transfer of digital Exchange Production Technology, started manufacturing S12 and EWSD Digital Switching Systems.

Iran Telecommunication Industries (ITI)

Iran Telecommunication Industries has been established in Shiraz in 1975 and is involved in manufacturing telecommunication equipment. Analog and digital multiplexers and radio equipment, line terminal equipment, hand-held mobile and base radios, battery charges and 256 line digital exchanges are among the various productions of the factory.

At present, ITI accepts order for all communication equipment and carries out services in procurement, production, installation, commissioning and maintenance as well as manufacturing other electronic equipment.

Optical Fiber Fabrication Company (OFFC)

The Optical Fiber Fabrication Company (OFFC) is a manufacturer of the fiber optics used in telecommunication. It also produces solar power systems for general public usage. The fiber produced by OFFC could be used in manufacturing all types of cables in telecommunication fields. In the near future, the production of single mode fibers with shifted dispersion, as well as those with flat dispersion will be started. These products will be utilized in connection with TCI long distance network. OFFC also provides the following services:

A. System designs for optical telecommunication

B. Supply from the local market of all required parts for a complete optical telecommunication system, bearing company standards
C. After-sales services
D. Installation, adjustment and operation of optical cables
E. Training and technical cooperation
F. Technical services required for proper repair and maintenance work

Iran Telephone Project and Development (ITP&D)

Iran Telephone Project & Development (ITP&D) is an affiliated company of TCI. It was established in 1973 for centralizing all activities concerning telecommunication for executing cable network projects.

Equipped with qualified technologies, the company provides services in the field of network construction and manufactures the items needed for cable network projects.

Human Resources

TCI success mainly depends on the level of its human resources' skill. Therefore, all employees are provided with opportunities for training. This is the reason behind an increase in the number of educated employees in 1993, compared with previous years. In order to absorb the most qualified staff, TCI applies special welfare plans comprising economic, health and leisure components together with on-the-job training for its employees and their families.

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Privatization

In line with the general policy of the government in carrying out the privatization of public firms, TCI has also taken some steps in this regard. During 1993-1994 major marginal activities of TCI have been transferred to the private sector and according to the law stipulated by Supreme Administrative Council, activities such as: engineering, installation and operation of the urban and international telegraph, telex, local and transit exchange, installation of aerial cables, maintenance of power equipment, planning, engineering, production and installation of telecommunication equipment and ... would be transferred, to the private sector, as soon as possible. So far alienation of the establishment, maintenance and exploitation of the pager network activities, value, telephone centers of 2,000 lines and mobile telephone to the private sectors has been approved.

The Objectives of Second Five-Year Plan

The Second Five-Year Plan concentrates mainly on the following objectives in the field of communication:

- Coordinated development of new telecommunication services. %Establishment and development of new telecommunication services. %Promotion of technologies used in the telecommunication network. %Proper and safe usage of frequencies as a national capital. %Provision of telecommunication links in the main roads of the country. %Digitalizing the country's telecommunication network systems. %Promoting the basic and applied research in the field of telecommunication. %Expansion of telecommunication public services to the remote regions of the country. %Extension and development of training and research. %Human resources development through manpower training. %Privatization.

Pakistan

Former Prime Minister Charged With Abuse of Office

BK2105141695 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Former Prime Minister Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif misused his office for granting unlawful credit facilities to the tune of 362 million rupees to his family group — Ittefaq Foundries Limited and Messrs. Hudaibiya Paper Mills Limited — from the National Bank.

This was stated by the interior minister, retired Major General Nasirullah Khan Babar, at a news conference in Islamabad today. He said criminal cases have been registered against Mian Nawaz Sharif and some members of his family for the illegal act. He said these loans drawn from commercial banks under political pressure have not been adjusted so far. He said the government, as the custodian of the public exchequer, is committed to take action against the defaulters. Mr. Nasirullah Babar said Mian Nawaz Sharif had been using his office for promotion of his family business.

Cases have been registered against him under Section 15 of PPO [expansion unknown] and under Section 409, 420 and 109 of the Pakistan Penal Code against the directors of Ittefaq Foundries and Hudaibiya Paper Mills. Giving the details of unlawful credit facilities, retired Maj. Gen. Nasirullah Khan Babar said 15 million rupees were drawn from National Bank, WAPDA House Branch, Lahore, without fulfilling necessary conditions and loan terms without the approval of competent authority. The amount now stands at 20.955 million rupees after adding marker [as heard]. The interior minister said that another industrial unit of Nawaz Sharif, Ittefaq Foundries, received 200 million rupees illegally as cash finance from Habib Bank, Empress Road, Lahore, for purchase of raw material under pressure of the then prime minister, which has not been adjusted. The amount has now risen to 232.824 million rupees.

Mentioning another case of nepotism, the interior minister said in April 1993, the Ittefaq Foundries opened a letter of credit [LC] worth 96.953 million rupees in Habib Bank for purchase of steel scrap from the United States. Mian Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister at that time, pressurized the Habib Bank for payment of LC amount to the foreign bank, depriving the bank of 114.409 million rupees.

Minister Views OIC Inaction, Indian 'Threat'

BK2205052995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said that India has not allowed the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] and the UN Security Council [UNSC] to send a fact-finding mission to investigate the tragic incidents in Charar Sharif in occupied Kashmir. Talking to newsmen in Lahore yesterday, he said India is well aware of the fact that it has done a mean act and is trying to hide it. The foreign minister, who returned home from Rabat where he had meetings with OIC Chairman King Hassan II of Morocco, said the OIC chairman has condemned the dastardly Indian act in Charar Sharif. He said Pakistan has written letters to the OIC and the UNSC to take immediate note of the incident in Charar Sharif and ensure a resolution of the Kashmir issue in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

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Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali rejected Indian allegations regarding the situation in occupied Kashmir. Referring to Indian plans to hold so-called elections in occupied Kashmir, he said the exercise will be useless and will result in more brutalities against the Kashmiri people.

Referring to the Indian threat to Pakistan, the foreign minister said it was just a stunt of the Indian Government to gain the sympathy of its people with regard to the present critical political circumstances. He said Pakistan is fully alert and capable of meeting any possible aggression.

Australian Foreign Minister Pays Official Visit

Views Kashmir; Meets Leghari, Bhutto

BK2105160795 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia has deplored the incident of Charar Sharif and human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. Addressing a news conference at the end of his two-day visit to Pakistan, the Australian minister for foreign affairs, Gareth Evans, said Australia extends sympathies to the Kashmiri people at the loss of their religious place.

[Begin Evans recording] Australia's position on Kashmir is essentially this: We deplore the destruction of the Charar Sharif shrine, whoever was responsible. For that we extend our sympathy to the Kashmiri people at the loss of one of the most revered religious shrines in this region. We share the concerns of the whole international community about the continuing unrest and violence in Kashmir. We are concerned about human rights violations, wherever they occur or whoever is responsible for them. [end recording]

The Australian foreign minister said his country supports the resolution of the Kashmir problem under the Simla Agreement. He said the Indian missile development program is a threat to regional countries.

Pakistan and Australia have signed an agreement under which Australia will provide 110 million rupees in aid projects for population welfare. Australia's minister for foreign affairs, Gareth Evans, and his Pakistani counterpart, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, signed the agreement in Islamabad today. The projects to be implemented through the United Nations Population Fund will provide training to frontline family planning workers in rural villages and towns to improve their improve client outreach and communication capabilities. The assistance will also cover a 41.3 million rupee training project to make Pakistan self-reliant in operating, monitoring, and maintenance of its recently completed Australian built optic fiber system.

President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has underlined the need for further strengthening close bilateral relations between Australia and Pakistan by increasing economic cooperation and investment. Talking to the Australian foreign minister, Gareth Evans, who called on him at the Aiwan-i-Sadar [President House] today, the president said both countries need to focus on specific areas of cooperation to make their relationship more meaningful and substantive. He hoped that private Australian companies will be interested in working and investing in Pakistan as we would like to benefit from their experience and expertise. Mr. Evans thanked the Government of Pakistan for supporting the idea of the international forum on Indian Ocean region.

The Australian foreign minister met Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad today and discussed various issues, including Kashmir. The Australian foreign minister expressed his deep regrets at the desecration of the shrine of the Nuruddin Wali and adjacent mosque in Charar Sharif by Indian forces. Mr. Evans requested the prime minister to extend Pakistan's support for the Australian initiative to hold a conference of Indian Ocean rim states with a view to furthering economic exchanges among these countries. The conference will be held in Australia in the second week of next month. The foreign minister reiterated the Australian invitation to the prime minister to visit Canberra.

Comments on Visit, Relations

BK2105165095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Australian foreign minister, Mr. Gareth Evans, has deplored the destruction of the shrine at Charar Sharif in occupied Kashmir and said this country shares the concern of the international community about the unrest and human rights violations in occupied Kashmir.

Addressing a news conference in Islamabad in Islamabad this afternoon, he said his country supports the resolution of the problem under the Simla agreement. He said the Indian missile development program is a threat to regional security that can trigger a reciprocal response from regional countries. The Australian foreign minister said he discussed the Indian missile proliferation program during his talks in Delhi and expressed Australia's concern about Prithvi missile deployment, which is the destabilizing factor in regional security.

About his talks with Pakistani leaders, Mr. Evans said they discussed bilateral relations, which, he described, in very good shape, as well as the proposed Australian move for a conference on cooperation among the countries of the Indian Ocean region. He said the

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Australian business community fully appreciates the investment opportunities in Pakistan.

Daily Assails 'Offensive' Remark

BK2305085895 Islamabad THE NATION in English 23 May 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Offensive pronouncement"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Talking to newsmen in Islamabad, the visiting Foreign Minister of Australia has pronounced judgment on the status of Kashmir, which would not only give immense pleasure to New Delhi, but also be readily picked up by its propaganda machine as a vindication of the Indian stance on Kashmir. Gareth Evans, who was here to muster support for 'Indian Ocean Regional Cooperation', may have been caught on the wrong foot, but what he said was, to say the least, highly offensive, and should have been taken serious note of by the Foreign Office. To say that Kashmir is a part of India and "that is how the majority of countries look at it", is surely not an incidental remark. And whether or not it was polite to make the statement on Pakistani soil during a goodwill mission, the Australian Foreign Minister has revealed the truth about Australia's basic policy on the principal source of discord between Pakistan and India. Ironically, he adopted a 'more-royalist-than-the-king' attitude in endorsing New Delhi's official line on Kashmir and went a step further to deny that Kashmir is a disputed territory. Even his so-called condemnation of the destruction of Charar Sharif and the violation of human rights in Kashmir was a loaded statement, insinuating the possibility of a Pakistani hand and asking both Pakistan and India to "exercise restraint". Foreign Minister Evans said he had extensive talks on Kashmir during his meetings with the President, Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister. If this has been the end result of the country's top leadership's lobbying for the Kashmir cause, perhaps no harm would have been done if the job was assigned to the Indian High Commissioner in Islamabad.

It is pertinent to ask as to why we are prone to tolerating such insolence from self-designated emissaries of regional cooperation who don't give a damn about our security concerns and yet have the cheek to seek our cooperation. Someone should have told Mr Evans that India's occupation of Kashmir, which he seems to think is a fait accompli, is not going to be as easy a job as has been the colonisation of Australia by white settlers. The Kashmiris are no aborigines and can neither be liquidated nor perpetually made captives in their own land, no matter how formidable is the Indian military presence, and how much sponsors like Evans and company are willing to testify for the legitimacy of Indian occupation. In the wake of the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa, Australia remains a singular vestige of the colonial era. It is perhaps time to begin the process of redefining Australia's identity and role in the region to which it belongs, rather than, as until recently, being preserved as a sanctuary for white supremacy.

Defense Committee Considering PRC Ship Purchase

BK1805084295 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 18 May 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad: Following preliminary rounds of talks between Pakistan Navy and the China State Shipbuilding Corporation, the purchase of four new Chinese frigates for the country's maritime defence will figure prominently in the forthcoming meeting of the Defence Committee of the Cabinet (DC€).

Considering the importance of the matter in view of the growing imbalance (almost one to ten) between Pakistani and Indian naval forces, naval experts and officials in the concerned departments have prepared a "plan to purchase new surface ships at an estimated cost of $650 to 680 million," disclosed official sources.

The sources, however, said that before starting negotiations to purchase the ships known as Type-053, the formal approval of the DCC is required with allocation of finances out of the ceiling which was fixed last year for defence purchases.

"The concept to induct new surface ships, which can hold ground like the infantry in army in case of war has already been cleared, and a request to that effect had already been sent to the Joint Staff headquarters some months back," said official sources, who stress the need for purchasing new frigates. This, they added, is being done against the backdrop that "since 1947, Pakistan has been buying old surface ships till date." These surface ships include Gearing class destroyers, Brook class guided missile destroyer (which had now been returned), Leander class frigates and now recently purchased six Type-21 frigates.

"Pakistan Navy remained unfortunate by purchasing old surface ships and basically it was the spirit of the sailors which count more than the equipment," commented one of the experts who is linked with defence purchase methods and procedures.

The nation needs to be fully aware of the importance of maritime defence, which in the modern warfare is considered the most important element, official sources said. "Particularly, in our case, Pakistan's weakest link is its naval defence, mainly because of the aggressive two-water Indian navy which is regarded as the 6th largest in the world."

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If the DCC, approves the mater, Pakistan needs to pay only $30 million for the ships during outgoing financial year, with another amount of $30 million required by the Pakistan navy for the next financial year. "So, one can see that there is no requirement of sparing heavy finances for the anticipated deal with one of closest friends of Pakistan in the international community — China. New Chinese ships, according to some experts, are also required in case of "declaration of blockade by the enemy's forces." This class of Chinese frigates are considered "effective."

Official sources say that the time has been reached that "due importance should be given to the Pakistan Navy, which gets less financial allocations for its purchases in the past."

Pakistan Navy is already equipped through its own sources and mechanism to "rebuild submarines", as Turkey does it. This leads to a saving of $60 million every year.

Following his appointment as naval chief, Admiral Mansural Haq is going all out to create "maritime awareness", besides taking decisions which will certainly lead the Pakistan Navy to increase its professional excellence and meet any challenge, any time.

Recently, a meeting of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee had firmed up proposals to increase had firmed up proposals to increase the allocations for defence purchases, giving priority to two matters: new surface ships for the Pakistan Navy and modern tanks for Pakistan Army, besides agreeing to purchase new aircraft for PAF [Pakistan Air Force] from "other sources" of the world.

The defence managers, according to sources, have already consented to make adjustments in the amount allocated for defence purchases, year-wise. "The allocated amount in not considered sufficient for the development programmes of the armed forces. However, within the given expenditure ceiling the utilisation schedule of annual allocation for some years next has still room to spare adequate funds for purchasing frigates," added the sources.

While Pakistan Navy has undertaken all the four stages of shipbuilding which included new purchases and maintenance; overhauling of ships, retrofitting and upgradation and building new ships of some classes, the comparison of Pakistan and Indian Naval forces gives a bleak picture. Indian Navy has two aircraft carriers against Pakistan having none. In other areas, the comparison reflects: Destroyer/frigate (India 18, Pak 11), submarine (Ind 19, Pak 6), missile corvette (Ind 17, Pak none), missile boat (Ind 8, Pak 8), mine sweeper (Ind 18, Pak 3), fleet tanker (Ind 2, Pak 2), harbour tanker (Ind 5, Pak 3), landing craft (Ind 18, Pak none), miscellaneous (Ind 30, Pak 8). On the other hand, the comparison of aircraft and helicopters for the naval forces of two countries is: In 1965, Pakistan had none against 39 of India, in 1971 India increased the strength to 59 while Pakistan had yet to acquire any. However, the present position is that Pakistan Navy has only 21 aircraft and helicopters against India possessing 169.

Chief Minister Views Kashmir, Karachi Violence

BK2005164795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 20 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sindh chief minister, Syed Abdullah Shah, has said that the recent violence in Karachi is the result of Pakistan's aggressive diplomatic stand on Kashmir. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, he said the Indian-trained terrorists created lawlessness on the eve of Black Day observed to condemn the destruction of Charar Sharif shrine by Indian forces. The Sindh chief minister said the act of terrorism was an attempt to stop the people to participate [as heard] in the protest rallies and divert the world attention from hooliganism being committed by the Indian forces in the held valley.

New Governor Appointed; Vows Peace in Karachi

BK2205153995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kamal Asghar was sworn in as the governor of Sindh in Karachi this afternoon. Abdul Hafiz Memon, acting chief justice of the Sindh High Court, administered the oath. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Abdullah Shah, Federal Defense Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani, judges of the Sindh high court, provincial ministers, advisers and political leaders attended the ceremony.

Talking to reporters, the new governor appealed to all sections of society to help in restoring peace and tranquility and ending violence in Karachi. Kamal Asghar said the political issues should be solved through political means like dialogue and discussion rather than use of force. The governor said he will try his best to bridge the gulf between the urban and rural population. He said that his doors will be open to all people and all will be treated equally. Kamal Asghar said he will try to contact all political forces and intellectuals to serve the entire province without any discrimination and create a peaceful environment.

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Islamabad Updates Karachi Violence

BK2305025495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a press note issued by the Karachi Administration, 13 people were killed and 38 injured in various incidents of violence in Karachi yesterday. More than 30 vehicles were damaged in incidents of violence which erupted during a strike called by a political party in the city.

Sri Lanka

President Vows 'Any Means' To Restore Peace

BK2305014995 Hong Kong AFP in English 1925 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, May 22 (AFP) — Sri Lanka President Chandrika Kumaratunga Monday [22 May] vowed to use any means necessary to restore peace in her ethnically divided nation, and said the military had gained the upper hand in the war against Tamil rebels.

Kumaratunga, in her first televised address to the nation since the outbreak of the latest hostilities, said the ethnic war was being forced on the country by the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

"If peace cannot be achieved through peaceful means, we will achieve it through any other means. Our fight is only against those who oppose peace," said Kumaratunga, who is a member of the majority Sinhalese community.

She admitted that the security forces suffered setbacks in the first two weeks of fighting after the LTTE pulled out of peace talks April 19 but said that since then, the military has had the upper hand.

"We will not give conflicting and confusing signals to the military. Clear and coherent strategies are in the process of being implemented," she said in her 25-minute speech delivered in Sinhala.

She said the LTTE withdrew from the peace process even without looking at a political package proposed by her government to resolve the protracted conflict which has claimed over 30,000 lives since 1972.

"To the (minority) Tamil people I say that there is no need to sacrifice any more lives to win your demands. Please pressure the LTTE to realise that this a futile war, that the LTTE is working against the interests of the Tamil people themselves," she said.

She said the international community had condemned the LTTE for scuttling the peace drive and said the nations of Asia, the West and the Middle East had pledged material support to the Sri Lankan government in this hour of crisis.

However, she did not identify the countries which had promised military aid to Sri Lanka.

At least 246 military personnel have died in recent fighting, and the military has claimed killing 235 LTTE cadres in a month of bitter fighting.

Daily Notes Foreign Help in Fight Against Rebels

BK2305105195 Colombo VIRAKESARI in Tamil 14 May 95 p 4

[Report by R. Selvaraja]

[FBIS Translated Text] In collaboration with French military consultants, the Defense Ministry has been working out a major plan of action against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE]. It is understood that the French consultants, now in Sri Lanka, have contributed significantly to the plan to be executed with the involvement of the three armed forces.

Last week, the military consultants from France visited the Army, Naval, and Air Force camps in Vavuniya, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Amparai, and Mannar.

Led by an Army colonel, the group that visited these places also includes two majors. Only after the inspection of the three armed forces camps will the plan of action be prepared. It has been learned from defense sources that more military consultants will visit Sri Lanka before putting the final touches on this plan.

More than 50,000 troops belonging to the three armed forces will be involved in the proposed military action. Steps have been taken to recruit 10,000 soldiers and 15,000 paramilitary force personnel for this operation. Moreover, steps have already been taken to recruit personnel for the Navy and the Air Force.

The government has been taking urgent steps to acquire antimissile aircraft and naval ships before launching a major offensive in the north.

Moreover, it has been learned that the government has given approval to acquire weapons worth 100 billion rupees, the contracts for which have been signed with foreign countries during the final days of the United National Party rule.

After coming to power, alleging kickbacks, corruption, and irregularities in the 100 billion rupee arms deal, the People's Alliance government had suspended the acquisition of arms. It is to be noted that the arms are going to be acquired now under the same deal.

Meanwhile, as plans are under way to launch an offensive and to acquire weapons, the LTTE has been

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indulging in massive attacks on the armed forces in the east. More than 60 soldiers have been killed in the LTTE attacks in the east from Monday [8 May] to Friday last.

The assault on the Special Task Force [STF] personnel in the Amparai and Kanjikudichiyaru areas during the course of these attacks have sent shock waves in the defense circles.

The Special Task Force, which is known as STF, was constituted as per the recommendation of a deputy superintendent of police, who returned home after a visit to Malaysia. The Special Task Force unit was commissioned in the country when this deputy superintendent of police informed the then deputy defense minister, D.B. Werapitiya, that such a task force is being used in Malaysia to quell riots.

As per the advice of the then President J.R. Jayewardene, the STF was constituted, and Israel's help was sought to train it. The STF, which was commissioned after being trained by Israel, was considered to be the most powerful unit among all the armed forces contingents.

The STF personnel provided security to former President Premadasa. Nineteen soldiers belonging to such an efficient contingent were killed in the LTTE attack in Kanjikudichiyaru. In the history of the STF, prior to that, no more than five personnel had been killed in a single attack. This is the first time that so many STF personnel have been killed.

According to defense analysts, this attack indicates that the LTTE has strengthened its position in the east.

People from Batticaloa and Amparai areas state that after the LTTE moved toward the east, heavy gunfire could be heard once again in the region.

'Major Battle' With Rebels; Casualties Updated

BK2305111495 Hong Kong AFP in English 1103 GMT 23 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, May 23 (AFP) — Tamil separatist guerrillas Tuesday [23 May] killed at least 27 government troops and lost about 20 of their own men in a major battle in eastern Sri Lanka, military officials said.

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas killed an officer and 26 soldiers from an army route-clearing patrol in coastal Batticaloa district, a military spokesman said. Five soldiers were also wounded in the fire-fight.

The patrol was overwhelmed after fierce battles with the rebels, the spokesman said, adding an estimated 20 Tigers were also killed in the firefight.

The latest army casualties raised to 274 the number of troops killed since the LTTE ended a three-month old truce on April 19, renewing its campaign for an independent nation in the northeast for minority Tamils.

Troops have also killed 256 LTTE rebels in the same period, according to military estimates.

The LTTE is fighting for a separate state in the northeast for Sri Lanka's two-million minority Tamils, who are concentrated in the region. Thousands have died in the LTTE-led independence struggle.

Australian Foreign Minister Pays Official Visit

Arrives; Schedule Detailed

BK2205120295 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australian Foreign Minister Senator Gareth Evans is now in the island on a one-day official visit. It is part of a tour of eight Indian Ocean states. On arrival early this morning, he was met at the airport by Deputy Foreign Minister D.P. Wickremasinghe and Australian High Commissioner (Bill Twaida). The Australian minister was due to meet the minister of justice and constitutional affairs, Professor G.L. Peiris; Trade Minister Kingsley Wickremaratna; and his Sri Lankan counterpart Lakshman Kadirgamar this morning. He was scheduled to call on Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike and opposition leader Ranil Wickremasinghe. Senator Gareth Evans is likely to discuss his outstanding offer of good offices during his meetings with Sri Lankan leaders.

Australia was among the first countries to express concern when peace talks between the government and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] reached a stalemate.

Offers To Mediate With Rebels

BK2205033495 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0100 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia's Foreign Minister Gareth Evans says Australia is ready to help mediate a resolution to the ethnic war in Sri Lanka if both sides agree to it. Senator Evans is currently in Sri Lanka as part of an eight-nation tour of Indian Ocean countries.

South Asian correspondent Gordon Taylor reports the Sri Lanka war is expected to be discussed when Sen. Evans meets President Kumaratunga today.

[Begin Taylor recording] Sen. Evans blames the Tamil Tigers for breaking the cease-fire in Sri Lanka and

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restarting the war — a move he describes as deeply unfortunate. The foreign minister says that Australia is willing through the Commonwealth to help mediate a peace. But he says that any solution has to come from within Sri Lanka, and can't be imposed from outside. If both sides see virtue in international mediation, then, says Sen. Evans, Australia could get involved. [end recording]

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